Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-111
Monday
12 June 1989

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Tripartite Committee's Damascus Meetings Reported

JN0906132489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] The Moroccan, Saudi, and Algerian foreign ministers who represent the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon continue their intensive meetings with the Syrian officials. They arrived from Jeddah yesterday accompanied by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary-general. President al-Asad received ministers Abdellatif Filali, Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Boualem Bessaieh yesterday. [passage omitted]

Following their meeting with President al-Asad, the three ministers and Ibrahimi held a meeting last night. A diplomatic source said that the three ministers decided to stay in the Syrian capital overnight to resume their talks today, Friday before they leave for Baghdad.

Ibrahimi is expected to leave for Beirut to meet with the leaders of the key Lebanese parties. However, he will not leave before the completion of the tripartite committee's talks in Damascus.

The program of the ministers of the Arab troika includes an international tour of world countries which are permanent members in the UN Security Council to secure guarantees on the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The three ministers of the Arab troika held a closed meeting at their place of residence this morning. The meeting lasted 4 hours. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received them 2 hours ago. The meeting is still underway.

Statement on Meeting With Al-Asad

JN0906161389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Damascus—The foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee issued the following statement in Damascus this evening:

The foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee were honored to meet His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on Thursday, 8 June 1989. They informed his excellency of the committee's working program in light of the decisions of the Arab summit in Casablanca dealing with the Lebanese crisis.

His excellency affirmed anew his support for the summit resolution and his backing of the committee's task to implement it. His excellency expressed the Syrian Arab Republic's readiness to cooperate with the Arab tripartite committee and its representatives to create the appropriate atmosphere to achieve national accord and urge the Lebanese parties to attain this accord.

His excellency expressed the readiness of the Syrian Arab Republic to offer its help to end the war and fighting between all the Lebanese parties and work toward opening the crossings and ending the sieges as a first step within this framework in response to the tripartite summit's call issued in Rabat on 4 June 1989.

The Arab committee will work toward realizing these goals through the contacts its representative, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, will hold in Lebanon with all the concerned parties. He will travel to Beirut to hold contacts with the concerned parties to implement this.

Al-Shar' Receives Committee

JN0906184189 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. They are the representatives of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended. During the meeting, they continued discussion of talks held yesterday dealing with implementing the special Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

Damascus Talks Conclude

JN1006083889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] In Damascus, the talks between Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar' and the representatives of the Arab tripartite committee composed of Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh ended late last night at the Foreign Ministry. The talks were attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Saudi and Algerian ambassadors as well as the Moroccan charge d'affairs.

During this meeting, the conferees reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the committee's work plan in the next phase to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

Abdellatif Filali, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Boualem Bessaieh left Damascus this morning following a 3-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Bessaieh's Statement on Talks

JN1006132089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Damascus—The talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the representatives of the tripartite Arab committee composed of Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince

Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh were concluded late last night. The talks were attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Saudi and Algerian ambassadors as well as the Moroccan charge d'affaires.

During this meeting, the conferees reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the committee's work plan in the next phase to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Boualem Bessaieh described the visit to Damascus by the representatives of the Arab committtee stemming from the Arab Casablanca summit as good, as always the case has been. He said: The visit was a happy opportunity, during which we met with the brothers in Syria, especially in the current circumstances during which Arab efforts are being exerted in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions. He added: All that we did in Damascus was to seek to highlight the points of an agreement that can be reached in the near future. He indicated: The decision, eventually, is in the hands of our Lebanese brothers themselves.

Concluding his statement, Bessaieh said: During our visit, we noticed that the Syrian brothers are ready to help.

Abdellatif Filali, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Boualem Bessaieh left Damascus this morning following a 3-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Diay'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; the directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry; and the Saudi and Algerian ambassadors as well as the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Arab Ministerial Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

JN1006100889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jun (INA)—The ministerial delegation stemming from the Arab tripartite committee composed of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh arrived here today on a brief visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Filali said that the delegation is charged by the tripartite committee formed by the extraordinary Arab summit held in Casablanca recently to take the necessary measures to resolve the the Lebanese crisis. He expressed the hope that the delegation will receive every help and cooperation from Iraqi officials to this effect.

The delegation was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and forign minister; the Foreign Ministry under-secretary; and the Saudi, Moroccan, and Algerian ambassadors in Baghdad.

'Aziz Meets Delegation

JN1006131989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jun (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met at noon today with the Arab tripartite committee delegation composed of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the chief of the Arab desk, and the Saudi, Moroccan, and Algerian ambassadors in Baghdad.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Holds News Conference in Tunis 10 Jun

Voices 'Regret' Over U.S. Veto

JN1006144589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] At a news conference in Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed regret over the latest U.S. vote at the UN Security Council yesterday, when the United States again vetoed a resolution denouncing Israel's policy in the occupied territory.

'Arafat noted that the PLO is still interested in continuing dialogue with Washington in order to change the U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian people's rights and Middle East peace.

In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have denounced yesterday's U.S. vote at the Security Council and its veto of a resolution against Israel's repressive policy in the occupied territory.

Seeks U.S. 'Declaration'

JN1006184689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has expressed regret over the U.S. veto yesterday against a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's repressive measures in the occupied territory, counter to the desire of all the UN Security Council members. 'Arafat said that the U.S. veto came at a time when the Israeli Government is escalating its repressive measures against the Palestinians.

At a news conference in Tunis, 'Arafat said that the PLO is interested in continuing dialogue with the United States to change its position on Palestinian rights and Middle East peace. He added that the PLO particularly asks the United States to issue a declaration of principles on the Middle East, basically recognizing the Palestinian

people's national rights, including self-determination. 'Arafat noted that such a declaration will permit a move toward discussing the various proposals aimed at starting the peace process.

'Arafat added that a declaration of principles must be issued on the main problem, which is the Middle East issue, similar to the recent U.S.-USSR declaration that defined principles for settling the Lebanese crisis. Such a declaration, according to 'Arafat, is an obligation that must be shouldered by the United States and other parties concerned with the Middle East dispute.

'Arafat said that U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have already spoken about many of these principles, especially the need to end the occupation of the territories and honor UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the Palestinians' political rights. He added that according to international law and like other peoples, our political right is self-determination.

Alluding to the U.S. State Department's announcement yesterday that it is not in the PLO's interest to set conditions for elections making progress impossible, 'Arafat said that accepting elections in the West Bank and Gaza under Israeli law means legitimizing the occupation. 'Arafat said: I challenge Israel. Do they want elections? Well, let elections be the same for all: the Israelis and the Palestinians—Jews, Muslims, and Christans; one parliament and one government. Do they agree?

'Arafat touched on the extremely serious situation in the occupied territory and asserted that in addition to escalation by the Israeli army and the armed Israeli settlers, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has announced a new plan to strike at the intifadah [uprising]. 'Arafat accused Shamir of trying to spark violence in the occupied territory to a point of real explosion by encouraging the armed settlers to commit violence and massacres. 'Arafat also said that the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising is pressing to retaliate against the Israeli armed settlers in kind. However, he added, the Palestinian leadership is advising against using firearms, but our patience has limits.

Further on News Conference

JN1106172989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine, yesterday said that Shamir is preparing a new plan to destroy our people's heroic intifadah [uprising] by employing new methods to undermine it. The brother general commander said this at a news conference at the PLO [as heard] Embassy in Tunis in the presence of a large number of Arab and foreign press, news agencies, and television correspondents.

He said General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the central region of the occupation army, has resigned, saying: I have carried out my duty to the best of my ability, and I want to leave this post before an incident occurs and tarnishes my name as an officer and a human being. Brother Abu-'Ammar added that this statement unmasks the plan Shamir intends to apply and tarnish Mitzna's name and military honor as an officer and human being who refuses to take part in it.

Referring to the grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, which has become intolerable under the continued closure of the occupied Gaza Strip, now undergoing a shortage in food and medical supplies, in addition to the second year of closed schools and universities, Brother Abu-'Ammar said: All this is happening while the United States uses its veto, as it did the day before yesterday [10 June] to block a resolution condemning Israel for its criminal acts against our people. Brother Abu-'Ammar voiced the PLO's regret over the United States' veto of this resolution while it is shedding false tears over human liberties and rights. Brother Abu-'Ammar posed the following question to the U.S. President and the U.S. Administration: Where are Palestinian human rights under Israeli occupation?

Asked about the continuation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue despite the fact that on 10 June the United States vetoed a resolution condemning Israel for its crimes against the Palestinian people and despite the fact that this position is unintelligible, Brother Abu-'Ammar said: Despite all this, we are eager to continue our dialogue with the United States in order to develop its policy toward Palestinian rights and peace in the Middle East.

Replying to a question on the development of the serious situation in the occupied territories and the need to convene the committee formed by the Arab summit to study this situation, brother Abu-'Ammar said: The committee formed under the chairmanship of King Hassan II will meet next week.

Asked about the U.S. concentration on Shamir's elections plan during the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the brother general commander said: We also concentrated on the Palestinian peace plan that was recently approved by the Arab summit in Casablanca. Brother Abu-'Ammar added: We are not against elections; we take pride in democracy; we have proposed a number of options: either the Namibian option, which was approved by the U.S. Administration and under whose aegis it participated under the name of the New York Agreement a few months ago; or the Arab option that was recently approved in Casablanca—with elections held under international supervision and after the Israeli withdrawal and as part of an overall peace process. Brother Abu-'Ammar added that the Palestinian peace plan declared in Geneva is still valid and that Shamir's plan is out of date because it is based on the Camp David accords and is not addressed to the Palestinians but to other parties.

Asked about the issues raised by the Palestinians during the second round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, brother Abu-'Ammar answered: We voiced the need for a political declaration of principles that should include most of the elements embedded in U.S. statements and positions, whether by President Bush or Secretary of State Baker. These statements and positions speak of an end to the occupation and the abandonment of the dream of Greater Israel. They also mentioned the Security Council resolutions and other issues. We said it is necessary to clarify the concept of political rights toward the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in full freedom, just like all other peoples in our world. Our people have rights similar to all other peoples. We wonder how it was possible several weeks ago to issue a joint U.S.-Soviet declaration on Lebanon—a declaration that included all aspects of a solution to the Lebanese crisis as seen by the two superpowers. Why is there no such declaration regarding the main question, the question of the Middle East, and the Palestine question in particular?

Because of all this, we believe that such a political declaration would help the peace process and enable us to move toward a discussion of the details and practical proposals at the negotiations table.

Asked about the formation of a Palestinian government, brother Abu-'Ammar said: The resolution on forming a government was adopted by the Palestine National Council. It states that an exile government comprising Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories should be formed. This resolution is still valid, and the government will be formed in due political course.

Answering a question on Arab reconciliation at the Casablanca summit and the outcome of his meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad, brother Abu-'Ammar said that two meetings between him and President al-Asad took place in Casablanca. The first was attended, supervised, and mediated by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. It was also attended by Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The second meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and myself was held in the presence of the Palestinian and Syrian delegations to the Arab summit. An earlier meeting also took place at the Harare summit. That was a tripartite meeting attended by the Palestinian delegation headed by brother Abu-al-Lutf, the Algerian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, and the Syrian delegation headed by brother Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. These meetings constitute a good beginning toward the normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations.

Asked whether a Palestinian delegation will soon visit Syria and whether Syria will release the Palestinian detainees, Abu-'Ammar said: These issues will be brought up for discussion by the Algerian delegation under Foreign Minister Bessaieh, a member of the tripartite committee currently in Damascus.

Answering a question on the mounting massacres by the occupation forces and settlers against the Palestinian people and whether this would lead to an explosion, brother Abu-'Ammar said that Shamir's policy and plan are pushing things toward an explosion by encouraging armed Zionist settlers to perpetrate massacres against the Palestinian people, as in Gaza, Nahhalin, Nabulus, and other areas. Before the latest call by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising was issued, there was pressure toward punishing these armed people using the same methods. However, the decision of the Palestinian leadership on refraining from using firearms is still in force. However, there are limits to patience, and I fear an explosion may occur.

Asked about armed operations through southern Lebanon, brother Abu-'Ammar answered: The U.S. Administration said these are armed operations against the military. However, when the Lebanese Government requested Security Council condemnation of the Israeli raids, the United States blocked the resolution by its veto.

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on U.S. Dialogue

JN1006102289 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the United States, has stated that the PLO has not received clear answers from the United States to the questions posed during the third round of dialogue on Thursday [8 June]. In a statement in today's edition of AL-BAYAN, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that the progress was made in terms of words and statements. He said that the progress can be of value to the Palestinians if it is accompanied by practical progress. He noted that the Palestinian delegation has not seen the necessary progress in this area.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that a report on the results of the third Palestinian-U.S. meeting was presented to the PLO leadership for final conclusions within the next few days. He said that the contacts with the U.S. Administration will continue in the next few days.

He noted that the PLO presented its ideas and that the United States is studying them. The United States, he added, is expected to give responses to these ideas soon. He expressed hope that the stalemate in the U.S. policy will end.

PLO Envoy to United Nations on U.S. Veto

JN1006073989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jun (WAKH)—Zuhdi al-Tarazi, head of the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations, has accused the United States of changing its policy on Jerusalem. In a statement in today's edition of the Abu

Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD, Al-Tarazi said that Washington and Tel Aviv signed an agreement on 18 January giving the United States the right to buy or rent land in Jerusalem before 1992 for diplomatic purposes.

Al-Tarazi wonders if the agreement means that the United States will carry out diplomatic activities in Jerusalem beginning in 1992. This, he added, contradicts the U.S. policy on Jerusalem and UN resolutions.

Al-Tarazi touched on the U.S. veto yesterday of a Security Council draft resolution condemning the repressive practices carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities. He said that the Security Council's discussions of the occupied territory produced political gains for the cause. He added that despite the U.S. objection, 14 countries, including the 4 major countries, supported the draft resolution. He stressed that the result of the discussions at the Security Council is considered a political gain that supports the Palestinian people's struggle.

PFLP-GC Rejects Media Charge on Air Bombing

JN1006172589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1605 GMT 10 Jun 89

["Text" of statement by an official spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; date not given]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has for some time now been the target of hysterical campaign by the United States and its strategic ally, the Zionist enemy. Since the Pan Am flight incident over Scotland, official terroristic circles in the United States and Europe, along with the Zionist entity, have made a full-time job of making spiteful and unfounded charges that the PFLP-GC masterminded the bombing of the flight.

These officials have failed to produce any legal or legitimate evidence to substantiate their charge. They are motivated by a desire to attack our front and force it away from its political and military options regarding the American-Zionist blueprint of a solution to what they call the Middle East crisis.

The PFLP-GC is very aware of the depth of rancor and hatred felt against it by Washington and Tel Aviv inasmuch as the front is a popular and revolutionary Palestinian vanguard that has placed armed struggle at the top of its priorities in the struggle against the Zionist enemy and is working to abort all capitulationist schemes against the Palestinian people's right of self-determination.

While the PFLP-GC fully understands this fact, it simply cannot see how a nation of such stature in international law and political norms allows itself to level flimsy charges based on imagination and illusions. It fails to see how a major power has fallen in the trap of responding or participating in making charges against others unless this is meant, as we are certain it is, to pave the way for aggression against the PFLP-GC and all the revolutionaries who reject liquidation and treason. This is also meant to pave the way for aggression against all regimes that take a position against the American-Zionist conspiracy, for whose implementation preparations are in full swing.

The news circulated today by Arab and international media as reported by the American television network ABC naming three persons as PFLP-GC members who carried out the bombing of the PAN AM plane is nothing but ridiculous talk with no legal or legitimate basis.

The PFLP-GC states:

1. The three persons named by the American TV network have never been members of our front and are not remotely associated with our march to liberate our land from the tyranny of Zionist occupation.

2. The American TV network made a deliberate mistake by basing its claim that the three are members of our front on the pretext that they were among those freed in the Galilee prisoner exchange executed by the PFLP-GC in May 1985. The Zionist enemy itself, as well as U.S. intelligence, is aware that this operation, and the al-Nawras operation carried out in March 1979, involved thousands of strugglers and detainees, most of whom belong to various groups and organizations, in addition to many independent strugglers. The Zionist enemy and Washington are aware that the number of strugglers released in the Galilee operation belonging to the PFLP-GC was much smaller than the number belonging to numerous and diverse Palestinian groups and organizations.

3. The network's reference to the 1976 Nairobi operation does not concern us because the PFLP-GC has repeatedly stated that it had nothing to do with the operation. The front assures Washington and Tel Aviv that it has enough moral courage to claim any operations that it might carry out, because in its armed struggle the front fears no power, no matter how haughty and powerful it may be, even the United States of America itself.

4. The PFLP-GC has denied any connection with the Pan Am crash through official statements to the media and in declarations and interviews by its officials. In reiterating this denial, the front is only asserting that the front's moral values oblige it to declare any operations aimed at liberating its land and people.

5. Despite all this tangible proof, there is a growing insistence by the United States to accuse the PFLP-GC. This insistence has manifested itself in successive media campaigns, statements by U.S. officials, dissemination of reports about imaginary investigations, as well as field actions and practices by the U.S. military attache and his assistant, who spied on the front's positions in order to provide the Zionist enemy with a map to enable it to attack our front.

6. The PFLP-GC, believing in its continuous line of struggle on the path of the Palestinian and Arab martyrs, declares today that it is fully prepared to confront the coming U.S.-Zionist aggression, defeat it, and thwart all of its political and military consequences. The heroic battle of al-Na'imah is our example.

We place these facts before the world and all the revolutionary and nationalist Arab forces in order to stand together against the new U.S.-Zionist conspiracy and transform our positions into a graveyard for the invaders and aggressors in the event they follow their instincts and commit aggression.

In conclusion, we reiterate our absolute denial of the fabricated Mosad and CIA accusations against the General Command, and we pledge to all the strugglers that we will thwart the new U.S.-Zionist plot by confronting and defeating it.

Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

'Uprising' Leaders Call For Killing Israelis

JN1206074889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] The Unified Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] [ULI] has called on Palestinians in the occupied Arab territory to kill Zionist soldiers and settlers to avenge the killing of Palestinian youths by the enemy forces. A statement distributed by the ULI yesterday says that Palestinians have the right to defend themselves and kill enemy personnel with knives. The new statement comes in the wake of the martyrdom of two Palestinian youths in the Jabalyah Camp in occupied Gaza from bullets fired by the Zionist soldiers yesterday.

The has ULI called in the past for killing a Zionist soldier or settler in exchange for killing a Palestinian citizen.

PLO Delegation To Visit Damascus 'This Month'

JN1006180889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 8 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that it is now certain that a Palestinian delegation—composed of Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-al-Hawl—will visit Damascus before the end of this month, June, to start a dialogue with Syrian officials to pave the way for reconciliation between the PLO and Syria.

Informed Palestinian sources in Damascus told AL-ITTIHAD that in the past few days, contacts were made between Damascus and the PLO through which arrangements for the visit by the Palestinian delegation, which will also include four Fatah leaders in Lebanon, were agreed upon.

The sources revealed that, in the past few days, the Syrian authorities have asked Fatah dissidents to evacuate Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's office in Damascus, known as Office-23, and also his private apartment.

Official on Khalaf's AL-TADAMUN Interview

JN0906192289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] A responsible PLO information official has stated the following: The interview attributed to brother Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] recently published in the magazine AL-TADAMUN contained many inaccurate and unobjective stories not mentioned by brother Abu-Iyad. He did not make the statements attributed to him. We request the news media to be accurate and objective when they publish interviews by Palestinian leaders.

Algeria

Human Rights League Holds Assembly in Algiers

LD0906174389 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpts] More than 1,000 people attended a general assembly of the Human Rights League, led by Ali Yahia Abdennour at the Atlas Hall this morning. The general assembly was aimed at extending the sphere of activity of this association. Hadji Mourad reports:

[Mourad] Today in Algeria, speaking of Islamic activists, Communists, or generals is no longer taboo. Speaking about the Human Rights League led by Ali Yahia Abdennour is no longer taboo either. This Human Rights League saw the light long before October 1988. It saw the light well before, in 1985, before the group led by Brahimi, which was established in 1987, which Ali Yahia did not fail to stress this morning and accused it of being too close to the government. In Ali Yahia's view, there is no monopoly on human rights. [passage omitted] He expressed the belief that today there is a problem of political, social, religious, and cultural tolerance.

Reputedly pro-Berber, today the Human Rights League, which Ali Yahia leads, placed itself in the context of action for Algerian identity based on Berber identity, Arab identity, Islamic identity, and modernity. The wealth of a people, said several speakers, springs from its cultural diversity. Regarding the exercise of democracy, Ali Yahia pointed out that it is blocked the minute civil society does not possess means of expression. As for the Algerian press, he said he sees it as a check on power, not as a fourth power.

During this general assembly, Ali Yahia announced the deployment of the League in several regions of the country; delegates from Oran, Constantine, and the south were present. He also announced that more than 12,000 signatures have been collected supporting the extension of the defense of human rights. He said that he intends to provide pluralism in the field so that people can stand firm before the state and so that no one may be above the law.

The general assembly was held in the presence of (Blum), representative of the International Federation of Human Rights, and representatives of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria and of the communist revolutionary group, in particular, who took the platform to express their support. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo 12 Jun

NC1206095389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived in Cairo at midday today.

Meets With Mubarak

NC1206102089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at the presidential headquarters this afternoon. They held a session of private talks.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today.

2 'Objects' Found in U.S. Embassy Compound

NC1106113989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—Sources at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo stated today that two strange objects were found in a garbage bin in the embassy compound today. Officials at the embassy immediately asked the Egyptian security authorities to send an explosives expert to examine the objects which they said were two battery electrodes. It is suspected they can be used to amplify the transmission of a transistor radio.

The Egyptian security forces hastened to the embassy, surrounded it, and closed the adjacent road to pedestrians and vehicles for 15 minutes. Afterwards, life returned to normal.

More than one eyewitness denied reports that bullets had been fired around the embassy building.

Butrus Ghali Leaves for Israel 11 Jun

NC1106065189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0634 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this morning for a 2-day visit to Israel.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said that President Mubarak has instructed him to make a working visit to Israel during which he will deliver an oral message from the president to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He said that during the visit he will also meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to discuss ways of promoting the peace process and reaching a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Sudan To Abrogate Joint Defense Pact

NC0906142789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has received a message from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The message was handed to him by Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayni, Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In the message, the Sudanese prime minister notifies Dr Sidqi of his intention to abrogate the joint defense pact signed by both countries on 15 July 1976.

The Egyptian Goverment has agreed to the Sudanese prime minister's request, as this is bound to facilitate peace talks in southern Sudan. The Sudanese Government has been notified.

Sudan's Numayri Told To Curtail Activities

JN1006175089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have conveyed to former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri strong displeasure over his recent actions, stressing the serious impact his propaganda activities have on the future of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Cairo is currently endeavoring to convince some European capitals to grant political asylum to Numayri. However, with the exception of London, most European capitals have already refused to grant asylum to the former Sudanese leader.

AL-WAFD has learned that Egypt has decided to impose strict surveillance over the activities of the Arab opposition elements who are taking refuge in Cairo and to ban their political and information activities. Cairo is now trying to reduce the activities of the Libyan Salvation Front and the Polisario Front in order to maintain the current momentum of the progress in Egyptian-Arab relations.

Consultative Council Election Results Announced

NC0906173389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Statement by Interior Minister Zaki Badr on final results of the Consultative Council elections on 9 Jun 1988—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother citizens, I am pleased to announce the final results of the Consultative Council elections, which were held on Thursday, 8 June, in accordance with Law No 120 for the year 1980, and Law No 10 for the year 1989.

The elections were held according to the individual election system which guarantees the candidates' right to compete according to their personal characteristics and their social status, in addition to their party orientations and political programs. These elections were held to reinforce the democratic march and enrich the political experience through selecting the most qualified members for the Consultative Council, because it is a constitutional institution which contributes its scientific and objective vision to making political decisions and guiding national action. Elections were held in 86 constituencies to elect 172 members, 19 of which were unopposed, and elections were held in 77 constituencies to elect 153 of a total of 629 candidates. According to the final results, 143 members were elected. Run-off elections will be held on 15 June 1989 in eight constituencies to elect 10 members out of 20 candidates.

The total number of registered voters amounted to 14,595,256. Of those, 10,174,692 voters, which represents 69.71 percent, cast their votes.

The voters exercised their full right to express their views and freely select their candidates. The elections were held under the direct supervision of the members of the judicial bodies who presided over the main polling stations.

The elections were held in an atmosphere of security. No significant incidents occurred during the elections, except for some riots in the Biyala District. The Public Prosecutor's Office is currently investigating the matter.

We thank the Almighty that the results affirmed that the masses were sensible and aware enough to elect the best suited elements to represent them and realize their objectives. May God's peace and mercy be on you.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Relations With U.S.

LD1106204389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2010 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—The brother leader has pointed out that what he said about the United States today in his speech marking the 19th anniversary of the expulsion of the U.S. troops and bases from the homeland concerns the Reagan era.

Asked by the JANA correspondent after his speech to comment on the Bush era, the brother leader said: The Bush administration is reasonable and mature; it understands international politics and cannot repeat the ignorance of Reagan; nor can it inflict more damage to U.S. interests and to U.S. foreign policy.

Quite the contrary, we believe that the new adminstration will offset the damage suffered by the U.S. in the time of Reagan, and that the Great Jamahiriyah will establish balanced relations with both the United States and the Soviet Union. The Great Jamahiriyah will also invite U.S. and Soviet companies to explore for oil and gas as these raw materials are available in great quantities in the Great Jamahiriyah and these companies will perhaps take part even in water projects.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly To Visit Egypt 23 July

JN1006192589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Rabat—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has expressed his desire to visit Egypt on 23 July.

An informed Arab diplomatic source has asserted that this desire was conveyed to the Egyptian Government by President Husni Mubarak's son, who visited Libya recently in a personal capacity.

The source added that during the visit, Al-Qadhdhafi will announce the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jallud Addresses Tripoli Human Rights Forum

LD1006133389 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] An international symposium on human rights in the Mediterranean region opened in Tripoli this morning. Our correspondent, who has been following the opening session, sent us the following dispatch a short while ago.

[Correspondent] Brother Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud opened the symposium with a speech, at the beginning of which he pointed out that it would be difficult to differentiate between human rights and the freedom of peoples. The freedom of people is the umbrella of human rights. He said we believe that the freedom of peoples and human rights cannot be regarded as a gift from a government or a class; they are a natural outcome of the triumph of the masses.

Brother Staff Maj 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud stated that English and French charters, for example, were (?destroyed) and lost their material and moral value when the West entered the stage of direct colonialism of many countries. This Western imperialism is the greatest violation of human rights. He said that the prizes awarded in the West are false and serve a propaganda purpose. He stressed that the red Indian people, for example, were annihilated after the declaration charters. Indeed, these are the charters of rulers and ruling bourgeois classes and are promulgated on the basis of a slave and master, rich and poor policy. He pointed out that whoever supports racism and Zionism politically and materially are guilty of crimes against humanity and people's rights.

Staff Maj Jallud said that the new and correct concept of human rights stems from the new age, the age of the peoples, and the age of jamahiriyahs. He stressed that the Great 1 September Revolution was the starting point for popular revolution and the establishment of people's authority. The free Libyan Arab people produced the great Green Document on Human Rights in the era of the masses and, thus, the human rights issue has assumed a deeper and more comprehensive dimension.

The opening session began at 1130 this morning and is being attended by a large number of prominent intellectual, legal, and political personalities from various parts of the world. It is also attended by brother the assistant secretary of General People's Congress, the chairman of the Mediterranean Peace Committee, the secretary-general of the Progressive Socialist Party of the Mediterranean region, and the daughter of the African struggler, Nelson Mandela. The session is continuing.

Sudan

Government-SPLA Talks Open in Addis Ababa

EA1006163889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] A correspondent of Radio SPLA with the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] delegation in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, reported to Radio SPLA that the meeting between the SPLM/SPLA delegation and the ministerial peace committee from Khartoum started today, Saturday 10 June. According to the spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA delegation, the purpose of the meeting is for the government side to report on the steps they have taken so far toward the implementation of the peace initiative. This requires the Constituent Assembly to enact bills freezing [word indistinct] Islamic punishments and abrogating the defense pacts with other countries.

When the assembly has passed these bills, these will be followed by the lifting of the state of emergency and a cease-fire. Then, and only then, will the national constitutional conference be convened.

The SPLM/SPLA delegation is composed of the following: Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command and director of coordination in external relations; Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of the SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander of Central and Western Equatoria; Alternate Commander Deng Alor Kuol; Dr Justin Yac Arop; Captain Nhial Deng Nhial; and First Lieutenant Yasir Sa'id Arman.

Garang Cited on Talks

NC1106152389 Cairo MENA in English 1505 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 11 (MENA)—Leader of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan John Garang, expressed hope for the talks between the Sudanese Government and his movement currently in session in Addis Ababa, to be successful.

Reports from Addis Ababa said that Garang urged in his cable the two negotiating parties to remember during their talks that all the people of Sudan wanted peace and that political leaders should rise to the level of their historical responsibility in order to achieve peace.

Reports said that the talks, which opened yesterday, will end tomorrow evening, adding that the two delegations yesterday discussed clauses in the peace initiative which

the movement insists upon, namely freezing the application of the Islamic shari'a, cancelling military agreements between Sudan and some neighbouring countries, lifting the state of emergency, maintaining a ceasefire, and holding a constitutional conference on peace.

Armed Forces To Repel Foreign Forces on Border

NC1106170989 Cairo MENA in English 1704 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 11 (MENA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces in Darfur have been ordered to repel any foreign forces that would try to cross the Sudanese border in such a way so as to preserve Sudan's sovereignty, a Sudanese official source said today.

In a statement published by AL-AYYAM newspaper the source said that the national Defence Council under Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will hold an extraordinary session today or tomorrow to review the situation along the Sudanese borders.

Security reports from Darfur had said that the Government of Chad has started to mobilize large troops in three posts along the Western borders with Sudan.

Chad Said 'Massing Troops'

AB1106191389 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 11 (AFP)—Chad is massing troops at three points along its border with Sudan, a Khartoum newspaper reported Sunday.

AL-AYYAM quoted government sources as saying Chadian reconnaissance patrols had also been spotted inside Sudan. The Sudanese Defense Council was due to meet imminently to review the situation, the paper said. Chad has accused Sudan of allowing a Libyan-led force including Chadian rebels to prepare a new attack against Chad, which it attacked in March 1986. Chad repelled the Libyan forces after a year-long desert war with some U.S. and French backing.

Sudan has replied that it only holds unarmed Chadian refugees forbidden from engaging in political activities.

The communist newspaper AL-MAYDAN quoted witnesses as saying Chadian rebels with Commander Hassan Djamous had grouped in the northern Darfur Province of Sudan. Other unidentified troops were also reportedly sighted there.

Observers in Khartoum have tended to discount Chad's accusations, saying the Sudanese Government is far too occupied trying to end its 6-year-old civil war in the south to risk opening a second front in the west.

Cabinet Reviews Military Accords With Neighbors

NC1106191389 Cairo MENA in English 1900 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, June 11 (MENA)—The cabinet reviewed today steps to scrap the joint defence pact signed between Egypt and Sudan.

The cabinet also discussed at a meeting today under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi the military agreement signed between Sudan and Libya in 1985. The cabinet stress that the agreement has expired and is no more existing. [sentence as received]

Culture and Information Minister Dr Husayn Abu-Salih said the cabinet decided to delay the discussion of the Egyptian-Sudanese relations which were scheduled to be examined at today's meeting until after the return of Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn from Addis Ababa. [passage omitted]

Numayri Plans Permanent Residence in Britain

JN1006193989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] London—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the deposed Sudanese president, Ja'far Numayri, plans to reside permanently in Britain and leave his current residence in Cairo after he was warned by the Egyptian authorities not to practice any political activities against the democratic regime in Sudan.

Official British sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the British Government does not object to Numayri residing in Britain and that the British officials will deal with him in his capacity as a former Sudanese president, no more, no less.

The sources added that 6 months ago, the deposed Sudanese president asked Britain to agree to him residing in Britain and that the British officials accepted his request.

Western Sahara

Polisario To Meet With Hassan 'Before 22 Jun'

LD1106200989 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The Polisario Front has announced that 200 Moroccan prisoners will be released on 17 June. Furthermore, the Polisario Front said in a statement in Rome that a meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco and the UN secretary-general would take place on 22 June. The exact date for the meeting with the king of Morocco, the second after last January's meeting, has not been set, but it is expected to take place before 22 June. The statement stresses that June would be a crucial month for the future of the peace process.

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Leaves for Morocco 10 Jun

JN1006082089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Manama, 10 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa al-Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, left Manama for Rabat on a visit to Morocco. He was seen off by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, prime minister; a number of ministers; and senior government officials.

Kuwait

Editorial Demands Forces Withdraw From Lebanon

JN1106154789 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 Jun 89 p 10

[Editorial: "Lebanese Want All Forces Out"]

[Text] It has become evidently clear that the Lebanese people desire that all foreign forces pull out from their country.

Thus, any decision on Lebanon that does not clearly stress on this point, will not be in line with the aspirations and demands of the Lebanese national will.

General Michel 'Awn has really sparked the true feelings of the Lebanese will.

These demands to liberate Lebanon and achieve independence have been repeatedly met with maiming, killings and destruction to property.

Lebanon was waiting for some time for a leader to openly express Lebanese demands for liberating Lebanese soil.

This is indeed the secret which is reflected in overt and covert support for Gen 'Awn. Irrespective of whether 'Awn remains in power after independence is achieved or not—Lebanese demands are meant to stay.

Thus, we cannot under the pretext of protecting Muslims keep invading forces in Lebanon. This will create a precedent for Europe and the pope to send troops to protect Christians in Lebanon. We should allow other forces to protect Shi'ites in Lebanon and should give the same facility to Armenians and others.

Only the Lebanese know how to deal with the peculiar set of circumstances they have been afflicted with. It is we the Arabs who created the imbalance in Lebanon by exporting several Arab contradictory ideologies. This has converted Lebanon into several rival factions. The Arab countries have contributed to this imbalance by buying some people.

The meetings of the tripartite committee formed by the Arab summit to solve the Lebanese crisis should take into account the departure of all strangers from Lebanon.

Let us leave its people with all its sects alone to deal with each other.

They are certainly more capable of finding the formula best suited to them. Any other solution will not be pragmatic and will not withstand logical dissemination.

PDRY

Military Patrol Clashes With Saudi Patrol

LD0906211989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] News agencies have reported a clash between patrols of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In this regard, a responsible source has told ANA that the PDRY Government will always work for the building of brotherly relations with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The source said that the PDRY Government is continuing its contacts with Saudi Government officials with a view to containing the problem, which resulted froma [word indistinct] clash between two military patrols inside PDRY territory. The source added that the PDRY Government would sincerely strive to develop brotherly relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the basis of good-neighborliness, constructive cooperation, and non-interference in internal affairs, in a manner that guarantees general security and stability.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Announces French Arms Deal

LD1006201989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Paris, 10 Jun (SPA) His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, announced that during his visit to France he and French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement signed two cooperation agreements between the Kingdom and France.

His highness also said: "One of these two agreements states that France agrees to supply all the Kingdom's military needs which it wants to obtain from the French military industries. The military purchases will be paid for, in addition to the usual method of monetary payment, with manufactured Saudi products, such as petrochemicals, Saudi agricultural products, or other Saudi exports."

In an interview with Saudi newspaper correspondents who had the honor to greet him in his house in Paris this afternoon, His Highness Prince Sultan said: "The second agreement focuses on supplying the Saudi Armed Forces with the new French air defense system, the 'Mistral.'"

His highness pointed out that the issue of the Mistral missiles has been under study for more than 3 years, pointing out that Saudi experts worked with their French counterparts during the development of this weapon and became closely acquainted with the methods of its use, its operational potential, and the maintenance and development program.

Saudi Forces 'Still Inside' PDRY Territory

NC0806132689 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Riyadh, June 7 (AFP)—Riyadh confirmed Thursday that a Saudi patrol had clashed with South Yemeni forces near their common border, saying the incident was "minor" and had happened "by chance."

But Arab diplomatic sources said Saudi forces were still inside South Yemeni territory Thursday, six days after clashes near Ifrine, in northern Hadramaout Province, a zone where oil exploration is underway.

The clashes were halted by Arab League intervention, according to the sources in Damascus, who accused the Saudis of deliberately provoking tension in the region.

Saudi officials, in a communique, denied reports of tension in the region, saying the reports were "totally erroneous and aim only to disturb the fraternal relations between the Saudi Kingdom and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen."

United Arab Emirates

Iranian 'Dissident' Killed in Dubayy 4 Jun

NC1006110789 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Dubayy, United Emirates, June 10 (AFP)—Professional killers were believed to have assassinated an Iranian dissident here last Sunday, reliable sources said Saturday.

'Ataollah Bay-Ahmadi, 52, a former colonel in the late shah's army, was shot dead in his Dubayy hotel room shortly after his arrival in the United Arab Emirates, according to the sources, who requested anonymity.

The assassins—or assassin—were probably waiting for Mr. Bay-Ahmadi in his room as he checked in at the Excelsior Hotel and were believed to have used silencers. The death was not discovered for several hours. The former colonel, who arrived here from Istanbul, was reportedly on a secret mission and wearing a bullet-proof vest when he was shot. Mr. Bay-Ahmadi, a resident of France since 1980, was carrying a Jordanian passport but checked in at the hotel under a different name.

Dubayy police, who have opened an investigation, were still holding the body, the sources said. UAE officials have not publicly reported the killing.

An estimated 80,000 Iranians live in Dubayy, which is across the Gulf from the southern Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas.

Yemen Arab Republic

Egyptian Officials Arrive in Sanaa 9 Jun

JN0906184589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The brothers 'Umar Musa, ambassador in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and Dr Hilmi, former president of Cairo University, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a several-day visit to our country.

Brother 'Umar Musa clarified in a statement to SABA' news agency that he is carrying a message to brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, dealing with the ongoing preparations and arrangements for convening the second quadripartite summit of the Arab Cooperation Council.

The brothers were received by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry Ambassador Muhammad al-Haythi, and Egyptian Ambassador in Sanaa Amin Basyuni.

Conclude Visit, Depart 11 Jun

JN1106181889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Brothers 'Umar Musa, ambassador in the [Egyptian] Foreign Ministry, and Dr Hilmi Nammar, former president of Cairo University and candidate for the post of Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] secretary general, left Sanaa today following a visit of several days to our country.

In a statement to SABA, Dr Hilmi Nammar explained that during the visit, he met with the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and a number of officials in our country, and that he explained to them his concepts on the work of the ACC's General Secretariat.

The two officials were seen off by Brothers Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Muhammad al-Haythi, minister in the Foreign Ministry; and Amin Yusri, Egypt's ambassador in Sanaa [title as heard].

President Meets Canadian Senate Speaker 10 Jun
JN1106080789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, yesterday evening received Dr Guy Charbonneau, speaker of the Canadian Senate, who is currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with bilateral relations and the ties of cooperation and friendship between the Yemeni and Canadian peoples.

The brother president welcomed Dr Guy Charbonneau and voiced the hope that this visit will contribute to enhancing and bolstering the ties of cooperation currently existing between the two friendly states.

For his part, the Canadian Senate speaker expressed pleasure over meeting with the brother president and indicated that this visit to our country has enabled him and his delegation to acquaint themselves with the manifestations of development and progress being witnessed by our country in various spheres. He also paid tribute to the democratic experience through which our country is passing, thanks to the policy being pursued by the revolution under the brother president. Dr Guy Charbonneau affirmed his country's desire to develop and enhance bilateral ties of cooperation in various spheres.

The meeting was attended by Brother Yahya al-Mutawakkil, member of the Consultative Council, head of the National Charter Institute, and Standing Committee member.

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives in Baghdad
JN1206081689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0754 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—Konstantin Katushev, Soviet foreign economic relations minister, arrived in Baghdad early today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. The Soviet minister will hold talks with officials in the Iraqi Finance Ministry, on ways to strengthen economic, trade, and financial relations between the two countries.

Report on Khayrallah's Death Cited
JN1106105189 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 11, INA—Iraqi newspapers today unanimously dedicated their commentaries and articles to mark the elapse of forty days on the martyrdom of General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and defence minister.

A major article of AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad described the late martyr as one of the prominent symbols of President Saddam Husayn's school of struggle saying that he, when fierce battles raged, was in the forefront among strugglers to defend Iraq with patience and restraint and confidence in the ultimate victory.

It said that sons of the Arab nation who followed up the battle of defending Iraq in the second glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah felt confident and satisfied with the presence of a significant commander like Martyr 'Adnan Khayrallah.

The daily published a report by the technical committee that investigated the martyrdom of the late General 'Adnan and six of his aides in a helicopter crash on 5th last May.

The report said that the crash of the helicopter was caused by unordinary bad weather conditions, invisibility coupled with sand storms. All that caused crew of the helicopter to lose control of the helicopter and then its crash on the ground.

The committee included representatives from Army Aviation, Command of the Air Force, Air Defence, Directorate of the Military Intelligence, Security, Intelligence Organ and Military Engineering.

The report said that the helicopter crashed near the road between al-Mawsil and Kirkuk and that the Meteorological Department of the air base issued a warning that afternoon of possible sand storms and bad weather in the northern area of Iraq.

The committee's report said that there were no indications of having a technical defect in the helicopter or facing a state of emergency while flying. The committee also ruled out any traces of fire or explosion of the helicopter in the air or on the ground. The helicopter crashed on the ground and its parts were spread on an area extending to 50 meters.

The report said that the helicopter landed at an area because of bad weather condition and then took off again with the intention of flying back to the same site of its previous landing because of inability to [go] back to al-Mawsil. Then radio contact with the helicopter failed.

Egypt's Ghali Arrives With Message for Shamir

TA1106083489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Israel a short time ago for a 2-day visit.

At a ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport, Ghali said that the purpose of his visit is to find ways to promote peace and that he is carrying a message from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that in his message President Mubarak gives his evaluations of the Arab summit in Casablanca and points out that it was the first time that the Arab world has accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who received Ghali at the airport, said Israel hopes to exploit the Egyptian minister's visit to coopt Egypt's support for Israel's peace initiative.

Dr Ghali will confer at noon in Jerusalem with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and later meet with Minister 'Ezer Weizman. He will dine with Minister Arens in the evening. Our correspondent points out that Dr Ghali will hold most of his meetings in Jerusalem, but will sleep in Herzliyya.

Meets With Peres

TA1106150689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived on an official 2-day visit to Israel this morning. His first political stop was a working lunch with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Although the lunch was conducted in a pleasant atmosphere, the Egyptian minister's words were clear and decisive. The central message was that the Israeli peace plan, or any other peace plan, cannot progress without the participation of the PLO. Ghali emphasized that 'Arafat sees the initiative he presented in November as equal to the one proposed by Al-Sadat in the past. Peres pointed out that the difference lies in the fact that Al-Sadat put an end to the violence. The Egyptian minister pointed out that since 15 November, not one terrorist operation has had 'Arafat's approval.

Shim'on Peres congratulated Ghali and the entire Egyptian nation on the achievements of the Casablanca conference where Egypt returned to the Arab League without foregoing the Camp David agreement. Shim'on Peres called on the Arab parties to the meeting to focus on common, rather than divisive interests:

[Begin Peres recording] The political wisdom at the moment is to gather all the factors which lead to the launching of negotiations, and to reject all the factors which delay this. [end recording]

The Egyptian minister expressed displeasure with the voices in Israel which call for a not-an-inch policy. To obtain the PLO's agreement to elections, said Butrus Ghali, the PLO must receive clarifications with regard to the not-an-inch declarations, with regard to East Jerusalem, election supervision, and other issues.

Ghali also noted Egypt's concern over the deterioration in the territories, and expressed his country's willingness to assist with the political process.

[Begin Ghali recording—in English] We agree on many things, we disagree on some things, and we are still good friends. I believe that among... [end recording, fading into correspondent translation]

[Correspondent continues translation] We both agreed that we must work together to promote the solution of the Palestinian problem.

After the meeting with Shim'on Peres, the guest proceeded to a meeting with 'Ezer Weizman, who estimated that an encounter at a higher level is possible. [passage omitted]

Plans To Meet Gaza Leader

TA1106090689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] (ITIM)—The Defense Ministry is examining a draft "Palestinian peace plan" that includes 11 basic principles, and which was presented to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a meeting he held with 14 notables from the Gaza Strip on 16 May. The paper was presented by As'ad Saftawi, who is the al-Burayj schoolmaster and an identified Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip.

The defense establishment views this plan as progress on ideas regarding the participation of the territories' residents in the elections. It was also learned that Saftawi will present a detailed copy of his plan to Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, with whom he is scheduled to meet tomorrow.

Confers With Palestinians

TA1206094489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] About 30 Palestinian figures from the territories, who convened this morning with Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, pointed out that the Palestinians will be unable to compromise on the following three points: the right to self-determination; the unity between the Palestinians in the territories

and the Palestinians living outside the territories; and the intifadah [uprising] which, according to them, is a white—or peace—revolution.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the Palestinian notables demanded that Egypt mediate between the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government. They reiterated their position that only the PLO leaders will determine the Palestinians' attitude toward the government's peace initiative.

Later, Minister Ghali met with members of the Arab affairs press corps. He said that his country does not reject the Israeli political initiative outright. He noted that the Palestinian notables with whom he met earlier had categorically rejected it. According to him, the initiative contains numerous negative points. Egypt believes that these points must be dealt with before any other steps can be made, and it is willing to mediate between Israel and the PLO and other Arab countries.

In Minister Ghali's opinion, the most difficult problem is the lack of trust between the Palestinians and Israel. Egypt is ready to assist in resolving this crisis and in establishing ties between Israel and the Palestinians.

He further said that no improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations is possible without progress toward the solution of the Palestinian problem.

At this hour, the guest from Egypt is beginning his meeting with the prime minister in Mr Shamir's bureau in Jerusalem.

Egypt Expresses 'Regret' Over Elat Incident

TA1006092889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Egypt has expressed its regret over the shooting incident in the Gulf of Elat last Saturday [3 June], in which Shlomo Yisre'eli was killed. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that David Afeq, the minister in the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where a senior official expressed Egypt's sorrow over the incident.

Likud Central Committee To Convene 2 Jul

TA1106112189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The Likud Central Committee will convene on 2 July to debate the government's initiative. We know who the opposing camps are. On one side are Shamir and the ministers who support him, and on the other are three other senior Likud ministers: Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i.

Anyway, the Likud Central Committee will convene and debate the political initiative. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister David Levi, his deputy, have reached an agreement on convening the committee. After the meeting our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami talked with Minister David Levi:

[Begin recording] [Levi] We agreed today that the Central Committee will be convened early next month, most likely on 2 July. A political security debate will be held on all issues. A second session is also likely. The question is not if one side will convince the other; the positions are known. I am glad that we reached an agreement on the need to convene the Central Committee so that the movement can express its view and to hold a debate on the issue which is at the very core of our existence.

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Levi, even after the senators' letter, which was read aloud at today's cabinet meeting, are you still firm in your opposition to the initiative?

[Levi] Friendship with the United States is important. Cooperation with the Senate and House of Representatives must always be our aim. I merely propose that we do not read into the letter what it does not contain. The letter refers to democratic elections, and at the same time there are discussions with the PLO. We must be very cautious and not lose our heads about a letter—which although very important in itself—contains some things and does not contain others. We must not delude ourselves in the campaign. We must conduct it with the knowledge that what guides U.S. policy are U.S. interests, as one American said a few days ago. I think that with the same breath we should say that what should guide Israel are Israeli interests. [end recording]

Shamir Insists on 'No Change'

TA1106152389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After the cabinet meeting, Yitzhaq Shamir met with Minister David Levi. The two agreed that the Likud Central Committee will convene and discuss the political initiative in precisely 3 weeks, on 2 July, at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. The prime minister will open the convention.

No agreement was reached on specifics of the voting—whether it will be on a proposition versus proposition basis, and whether the ballot will be secret. The prime minister insisted that no change, amendment, or condition be introduced in the political initiative which was endorsed by the cabinet.

Upon leaving the meeting with the prime minister, Minister David Levi pointed out that the question of either support for, or opposition to the plan had not been discussed at all. In any event, he adheres adamantly to his position.

[Begin Levi recording] I have not changed my stand, and I do not presume to effect a change in the prime minister's stance. Some things are the basic tenets constituting the Likud's viewpoint and chosen way. These will be subjects for discussion and decision at the Central Committee convention. [end recording]

Meanwhile, vigorous activities toward the Central Committee meeting continue in the Likud. The prime minister makes a point of holding daily meetings with a group of Central Committee members in his Jerusalem bureau. Minister Ari'el Sharon, too, makes frequent appearances. [passage omitted]

Shamir Cited Further

TA1106154389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] If the Palestinian representatives elected in the territories were to receive instructions from the PLO, or engage in terror, negotiations with them would be terminated and they would be thrown in jail, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today in a meeting with members of the Likud Central Committee. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

As has been his custom in the last few days, the prime minister met this afternoon with a group of members of the Likud Central Committee in a bid to persuade them to support his political initiative.

The prime minister's remarks in the meeting included several interesting points. Jewish settlers would not be pulled out of the territories, but would be joined by new ones. It is inconceivable that anybody should agree to evacuate them, he added. The number of Palestinian representatives to be elected in the territories would not exceed 15 men and, according to Shamir, they would have to accept the entire initiative as a whole. Also, peace would have to prevail in the territories first, and only then would Israel begin to take action to implement the two stages of the plan. If the Palestinians were to receive instructions from the PLO, or engage in terror, we would terminate the process and they would be thrown in jail, the prime minister noted.

He also addressed himself to the issue of the Likud Central Committee session scheduled to meet in 3 weeks, saying: I told David Levi that it is better that the Arabs fight among themselves, rather than us fight among ourselves. The Likud must enter and emerge from the Central Committee session united.

Sharon on Likud Meeting

TA1106162889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening.

[Sharon] Good evening to all of you.

[Shilon] The strongest argument we heard last week from the political plan's supporters, who tried to convince the wavering Likud Central Committee members, was the following: If you oppose the plan, the Alignment will take over the reigns. How do you intend to defeat such a crushing argument?

[Sharon] First of all, I am glad that after my three appeals to the prime minister to set a date for a Central Committee meeting, the prime minister has finally agreed to convene the Central Committee, and even to set an agreed upon date for this convention. The issue on the agenda will be security and the political situation.

As for your question: There is no reason why the Alignment should take over the premiership which is now held by the Likud. First of all, I see no reason why the prime minister should resign. There is no reason for that.

[Mardor] Even in the absence of a political plan?

[Sharon] I think that the Central Committee will hear the prime minister, the members will express their views and present their stands. If the prime minister's stand is accepted, then it's accepted. If, however, a need arises for certain amendments or changes, that is absolutely legitimate because what is better or more democratic than to take this kind of action, particularly since this is a question on which our very existence depends?

[Shilon] We will touch on the proposed changes in a moment. How do you see the political scenario in which the prime minister goes to the Likud Central Committee, which decides on changes, and perhaps on the rejection of the plan? What will he do then? Will he go back to the cabinet and ask for a new plan? Will he approach the United States? What will he do?

[Sharon] Look, basically, everything should have been done in an entirely different way.

[Shilon] We are faced with a certain reality, however.

[Sharon] Yes, of course, but if that reality means danger, and is perhaps the result of a mistake in the path we had chosen, then will we jeopardize our lives and our very existence only because we did not act correctly in dealing with the peace plan? Is it conceivable that such a plan be formulated without the participation of some of the experienced and veteran ministers? Is it conceivable that such a subject be decided without a discussion in the Central Committee? Has a similar thing ever happened in the past? There have been proposals, but not decisions. There is no reason in the world why the prime minister should resign. He can very well continue in his job. On the contrary—did we not elect him?

[Shilon] Should he then formulate another plan?

[Sharon] If the prime minister does what his aides have been saying—in my opinion only in a bid to intimidate the Central Committee members—and decides on resignation—for which I think there is no reason—well, we have faced similar situations before. When Mr Begin resigned, the Herut Central Committee convened and elected Mr Yitzhaq Shamir. Maybe Mr Shamir will want to put forward his candidacy again.

Since the Likud is at present the largest party, it is the one to be charged with establishing the government. There is no reason in the world to terrorize people by threatening to hand rule over to the Alignment. What has happened? Will the Likud become a smaller political power? And if amendments or changes are deemed necessary, or if restrictions have to be added to the plan in order not to endanger our security, our existence, Jerusalem as Israel's capital—do all these weigh against the other things?

[Mardor] Minister Sharon, as to the other scenario—if the prime minister's plan is endorsed—will you draw personal conclusions?

[Sharon] I think that of all the political bodies to date, the Likud has been the most democratic. It has always been our custom to allow everyone the right to persuade their fellow party members.

[Mardor] What happens if you fail?

[Sharon] I do not wish to deal with that now. At the moment we are dealing with the attempt to...[changes thought] We do not, God forbid, wish to harm anyone, there is no intention to harm people, not the prime minister either. This is not the goal of our action. Our action is not against, it is for things: For Israel's security, for retaining Jerusalem as Israel's capital, for the chance for normal life here. Everything is for Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shilon] Mr Sharon, being acquainted, albeit superficially, with your opinion of the political plan, I wish to ask: What are the changes that would satisfy you? According to the moderate Arab elements, and certainly according to the Americans, the political plan as proposed by the prime minister will eventually lead to negotiations with the PLO and to a Palestinian state—even if the changes that are certain to be proposed in the Central Committee are accepted. How will you be able to support such a plan, even if it is amended?

[Sharon] First of all, it is to be regretted that the cabinet has not demanded that the Americans and the Western democracies abstain from negotiating with the PLO. This morning, I heard one of the most respected cabinet ministers say that asking the United States not to hold a dialogue with the PLO would be inappropriate. Since the cabinet adopted this stand contrary to my views, indirect negotiations are indeed being conducted with the PLO. This was an error. I am not even talking about the principle that there are some enemies, some murderers with whom one simply does not converse. What I am saying is on a practical level: There can be no peace as long as the dialogue with the PLO continues.

As for the other points: In my opinion, this plan should incorporate an integral clause saying that Israel will bring about an end to the violence and terror prior to launching any political process, and as an integral part thereof.

There must be a clause stating that united Jerusalem, under Israeli sovereignty and without any kind of status to any foreign factor whatsoever, is the eternal capital of the Jewish nation and of Israel. No negotiations on the issue of Jerusalem are to be conducted, and East Jerusalem Arabs will not participate in the proposed elections, either as voters or candidates.

It is important to note, of course, that there can be no supervision. Any supervision, even that which begins seemingly innocuously, will eventually bring about the presence of either UN observers or a multinational force separating our security forces from the terrorist organizations. The latter will then carry on their murderous acts, and we will be unable to deal with them. We have already witnessed similar situations.

An additional thing that must be remembered: In the elections themselves, if there is no restriction of the autonomous territory or of the regions in which the elections will take place, this will eventually lead to a Palestinian state in each of the locations where elections are held. Therefore, I see a need to state that in parallel to the self-government, Israel should impose its law on those areas which are populated by Jews. This will avert the danger of a Palestinian continuity, as well as the other danger, the most acute of them all, of the establishment of a second Palestinian state.

[Shilon] Minister Ari'el Sharon, what you are saying means in fact revolutionizing the political plan. We could continue asking various questions ad infinitum, but we will reserve them for another opportunity. Thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Haifa Man Attacked in Al-Yamun Near Janin

TA0906182789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpts] This morning, a Haifa construction worker was attacked by three youths in the village of al-Yamun near Janin. He managed to escape. He was attacked at the entrance to the village with stones and clubs, and escaped while leaving his car to be wrecked by them. He alerted the police, who along with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] launched searches.

This evening, a 17-year-old youth was killed near Bethlehem by soldiers' gunfire following a stone-throwing incident. This was reported by residents of the neighborhood where the incident took place to our correspondent Victor Nahmias. The IDF is checking the report.

In four villages in Samaria, four residents were wounded today. Two others were wounded in Gaza. All six were also involved in stoning incidents. [passage omitted]

The Hebron and Ramallah areas were closed to the media today, and our television crew was presented with a decree forbidding photography.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Curfew Lifted; Workers Leave

JN1106142689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The Israeli authorities have lifted a week-long curfew on the Gaza Strip with the exception of the Jabalyah camp, which will remain under curfew due to the recent encounters and clashes there, particularly yesterday, when the Israeli forces killed an 8-year-old Palestinian boy and opened fire and injured 11 of his mourners. One of the injured, a 15-year-old boy died today after receiving a bullet in the head. It will be recalled that five Palestinians were killed and scores of others were injured when the Israeli soldiers fired at them during the curfew that was imposed on Gaza.

In the meantime, Israeli military sources said about 4,000 cars carrying Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip today crossed the Erez checkpoint, where the soldiers control traffic between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military administration resumed the distribution of magnetic identity cards to the Palestinian workers who leave for Israel. By inserting these cards into the computer, everyone who participated in the intifadah [uprising], particularly in the Strip, will be identified.

In another development, Israeli military sources said the educational institutions have been reopened and that the examinations, which were postponed for a week due to the curfew, will be held normally as of today.

The Israeli military administration has also issued permits to 1,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip in order to perform the pilgrimage [to Mecca in Saudi Arabia] at the beginning of next month. Those wishing to perform the pilgrimage were subjected to intensive interrogation during the past few weeks. The Israeli authorities prevented anyone who participated in the intifadah from traveling on the pilgrimage.

The Israeli authorities accused eight Israeli peace advocates today of violating the law that bans any Israeli contact with PLO members. They belong to a peaceful group composed of 22 Israeli extremists who met with a number of senior PLO officials, including Mahmud 'Abbas, in Hungary in 1987.

Soldier Beats TV Cameraman

TA1006183889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier today beat Israeli television cameraman Yehi'el Sarig while the latter was covering incidents in Ramallah. Serious riots took place in Ramallah today. A local youth was wounded in the leg by IDF soldiers' gunfire. Youths hurled rocks at army units and erected roadblocks.

The confrontation with the Israeli television crew started when soldiers ordered our correspondent Menahem Hadar and his crew member Yehi'el Sarig to leave the area without presenting them with a closed-zone decree. The soldier punched the cameraman in the face with his fist and with the butt of his gun. After that the soldier cocked his gun and ordered the crew to leave. An IDF spokesman told our correspondent that attacking the television crew was in contradiction to regulations, and in absolute contradiction to the orders for behavior given to soldiers in the territories. Legal measures will be taken against the soldier.

Weekend Riots Detailed

TA1106065489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jun 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops shot and killed three Palestinians in the territories two of them boys, and wounded 69 people in clashes with rioters over the holiday weekend, Palestinians said. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed the deaths and 11 injuries.

A week-long curfew in the Gaza Strip is to be lifted at dawn today, except for Jabalyah refugee camp, where a Palestinian child was killed yesterday. Schools will reopen in time for final examinations which start today. The al-Nusayrat refugee camp spent the whole of last month, except for 48 hours, under curfew.

According to Palestinian sources, eight-year-old Shahdi Zayyad 'Awad of the Jabalyah camp was playing with his friends in the street when a soldier on patrol shot a steel marble at his chest and killed him.

The IDF spokesman said that troops shot when local residents violated the curfew and threw stones.

News of the death sparked unrest in the camp and youths violated the curfew and attacked the army stronghold in the camp. Troops opened fire to quell the rioting and

wounded 33 Palestinians, according to Gaza hospital records. The IDF put the number at eight, two of whom were shot in the head and referred to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

On Friday troops shot and wounded 18 Palestinians, most of them in the al-Shati' and al-Nusayrat refugee camps, according to Palestinian sources. A 17-year-old detainee in the beach detention camp known as Ansar-2 was brought to Al-Shifa' Hospital for treatment of beating bruises.

On Thursday the army sealed three homes in Jabalyah said by the IDF spokesman to be the residences of three Palestinians active in "popular committees."

In Nabulus on the West Bank, 11-year-old Ghaleb Samina was shot in the abdomen in a clash with troops Thursday evening and died on the way to hospital, Palestinians said. Military sources said soldiers had been attacked, and the boy took part in the assault. The IDF is investigating the incident.

Samina was given a nationalist funeral, during which activists broadcast slogans and chants over megaphones. The death sparked clashes in various neighbourhoods, and Palestinians reported four persons wounded. [passage omitted]

A curfew was imposed Wednesday night on 'Ayn Yabrud, near Ramallah, after settlers from neighbouring 'Ofra opened fire, damaging at least one home, when their car was stoned in the village. Soldiers arrested a settler who refused to leave the village, and turned him over to police. He was released after questioning. [passage omitted]

A curfew on the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camps yesterday remained in force for the 12th day.

Wounded Jabalyah Resident Dies

TA1106122589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Jabalyah refugee camp resident Sa'id Asayishi, 16, died this morning at Tel Hashomer Hospital of the critical wounds he sustained in yesterday's clashes with soldiers in the camp.

Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that another youth, who was badly wounded in yesterday's events at the Jabalyah refugee camp, is also hospitalized at Tel Hashomer. Two other wounded residents of Jabalyah were hospitalized in Gaza. The Jabalyah refugee camp is currently under curfew.

Second Jabalyah Man Dies

TA1106194289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Seventeen-year-old Musa 'Umar Khalil Sham'ah, a resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp, died this evening at Tel Hashomer Hospital of head wounds sustained yesterday. Sixteen-year-old Muhammad Sa'id Lubad [name as heard], who was wounded in the same incident, died earlier today. [passage omitted]

Hebron Declared 'Closed'

TA1106165489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Two people were wounded today in Ramallah: A 16-year-old boy from the village of Kharbata was wounded in the head by gunfire, and a 60-year-old woman was wounded by a rubber bullet in the course of riots in the city. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 11 Jun adds that "nevertheless, relative quiet prevailed today in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Curfews were lifted at noon from the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camp."]

Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil adds that the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp remains under curfew, and that Hebron was today pronounced a closed military zone.

Israeli Influence Seen Behind U.S. UN Veto

JN1006080989 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jun 89 p 18

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "The U.S. Veto Once Again"]

[Text] It seems the United States does not want to escape Israel's circle of influence. Nor does it want to deal with the facts of the intifadah [uprising] and the new reality in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is because it still refuses to distinguish between the Palestinian national resistance and Israel's oppressive policy.

It refuses to distinguish between a people who struggle to liberate their occupied territory and an occupier who is armed to the teeth and seeks to achieve expansionist designs.

It also refuses to distinguish between a peaceful uprising, through which the Palestinian people are expressing their rejection of the occupation, and the policy of violence and use of all kinds of brutal force such as firing live bullets, storming houses, carrying out mass arrests and deportations, and torturing children and burning them alive.

Otherwise, how else can we explain the U.S. Administration's action in rejecting the Nonaligned Movement's draft resolution condemning Israel's terrorist policy in the occupied territories and submitting alternative proposals equating the intifadah with Israel's oppressive policy and calling on both the Palestinian people and Israel to show moderation and stop terrorism? And how also can we explain the U.S. Administration's continued use of the veto against any UN resolution condemning Israel's oppressive policy in the occupied territories as it did yesterday when 14 of the 15 Security Council member states supported the ressolution?

We and the entire world had thought that, in view of the current realistic and moderate Palestinian attitude, Washington would have put sufficient pressure on Israel to make it accept the Palestinian peace initiative. We also thought that Washington would have adopted a fair and an equitable position in wake of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the PLO's acceptance of U.S. conditions for opening this dialogue. Moreover, we thought that Washington would have restrained Israel's escalated violence and oppression in the occupied territories following Baker's call on the Tel Aviv rulers to abandon their dream of establishing greater Israel, a call that introduced new language into Washington's dealing with the parties to the conflict.

Therefore, Washington's unilateral deviation from international unanimity and its failure to condemn Israel's oppressive policy and secure international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in using its veto in the Security Council cannot but arouse real suspicion about the seriousness of the U.S. position and encourage Israel to continue its oppression and acts of violence against Arab citizens.

This also encourages Israel to reject peace efforts and try to abort them.

We believe that such positions by the U.S. Administration will not serve the cause of peace regardless of claims of its desire to achieve peace.

We also believe that to be able to play an effective role in the peace process, the U.S. Administration must escape Israel's circle of influence. It must also make its own decisions and adopt positions governed by U.S. interests, not the pressure of the Zionist lobby.

JORDAN TIMES on Pickering's UN Remarks

JN1106062189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Do Us a Favor"]

[Text] It was not at all surprising to see the American delegate vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution deploring Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since America's blatant use of its international clout has become a way of life at the world body. But, what was indeed surprising was the impressive choice of words and phrasings that the U.S. delegate, Thomas Pickering, offered in justifying the veto. First of all, Pickering voiced American concern over the "continuing violence" in the Occupied Territories, escalation of attacks on Palestinians by Jewish settlers, commando infiltration attempts against Israel through Lebanon and inter-Palestinian violence and referred to what he said were "active (American) efforts" to bring about "political dialogue." Then he spiced it up with a reference to a recent call by Secretary of State James Baker on Israel to drop its expansionist plans. Next, he threw in American support for the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the Occupied Territories as an initiative to which "we find no other workable alternative." (Israel should be gratified that its trust is not misplaced in the Americans who can be relied on to drum up support for the plan at every forum and at every given opportunity).

The clinch, as we see it, in what Pickering said was somewhere in the middle of the lengthy statement. "...The United States has repeatedly urged that, in addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Security Council refrain from unhelpful, divisive, one-sided rhetoric," he said. Let us, for a minute, overlook the three adjectives and resist the urge to ask Washington to ask itself who's being "unhelpful, divisive" and "one-sided," and read Pickering's next sentence. "...We have urged that the Council use its considerable authority to help reduce tensions and foster a spirit of accommodation and mutual trust in the region."

We cannot but ask:

Is it not American weapons and military technology as well as Washington's almost unlimited moral and financial support for Israel that keep tensions high in the Middle East?

Is it not the Arab World, over the past years, which has fostered the spirit of accomodation by dropping hardline positions and accepting the concept of coexistence and security and stability for all countries in the region?

Is it not the Palestinian people, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), who are trying their best to build mutual trust even at the cost of splits and differences within their own ranks?

Put the answers to these questions together and what we get is majority support in the Security Council for the moderate, objective and reasonable approach that the Arab and non-aligned worlds have adopted towards the Middle East conflict. Needless to say, such support is indeed the target of American criticism, which has very little to do with the draft resolution that was killed Friday. If anything, the U.S. should be the last to refer to the "considerable authority" of the Security Council since Washington itself has been highly instrumental, through its mighty sword of veto over the decades, in undermining the effective powers of the Council and imposing a muzzle on realistic moves towards peace in regional conflicts. Is it any secret that the U.S. stands isolated from the other four permanent members of the Security Council with its opposition to the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East? The American spirit of "accommodation" and "mutual trust" disappear into thin air when it comes to this question.

Let us Arabs not deceive ourselves nor allow anyone to deceive us. Quite simply, Friday's American veto was perfectly in line with Washington's staunch support for Israel and its eagerness to offer a defensive shield for the Zionist state against criticism. It is an inevitable reality which will rear its head whenever Israel is in the dock at the U.N., but will the U.S., for once, accept it as such and abandon its pretenses? If it does, then it will be a big relief for all since there will no longer be any ambiguity over peace efforts and every party will know where it stands. That will be the greatest favour that the U.S. can do to the international community.

U.S. Veto Raises Concerns on Jerusalem

JN1106080289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jun 89 p 1, 18

[Editorial: "Veto Against Peace"]

[Text] By using its veto, the United States has aborted the draft resolution approved by the other member states of the UN Security Council, condemning Israeli pratices in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. This comes after the nonaligned nations, who presented the draft resolution, refused to accept the U.S. amendment requesting that no reference be made to the holy city.

In this way, the United States blocked the resolution, defying the unanimity it rallied and exploiting its veto right in a way that encourages the Israeli aggressors to continue committing their crimes against the Palestinian people behind the fences of occupation. The new veto also contains an indicator suggesting a change in the U.S. position on Arab Jerusalem—something to which the State of Palestine's representative to the international organization called attention. He called on the Arab and Islamic states to look into it and take the necessary stands in light of this indicator.

The United States' use of its veto at a time when the third round of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is going on in Tunis is quite noteworthy. In this round, the U.S. ambassador defended the Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories without guarantees. This means that the U.S. veto before the UN Security Council and the U.S. position during the third round of talks were merging into one channel—that of bias toward Israel. It is not farfetched to think that one of the goals of the veto is to provoke the Palestinian side to abandon the dialogue, especially as the the United States has no excuse to respond to Israeli insistence on ending the dialogue.

In any case, the new veto affirms that U.S. behavior toward the cause of peace in the region remains the same; that is, it is still unconcerned about the credibility it should have. This comes in addition to the dangerous indicator suggesting a change in the U.S. position toward Arab Jerusalem. Therefore, the Arab and Islamic nations are called upon to demand a clarification from the U.S. Administration on this issue, especially as Jerusalem is the essence of the Palestine question and any change in the U.S. position on it undoubtedly means that U.S. policy has chosen to increase its opposition on the Palestine question and push the peace process in the region backwards another step. The Arab and Islamic countries should beware of this and be ready to confront it firmly.

Daily Interviews Foreign Minister al-Qasim

JN1106055589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 89 p 1

[By Rabab Mangu]

[Text] Amman—The most outstanding achievements of the May 23-26 extraordinary Arab summit held in Casablanca, Morocco, were the return of Egypt to the Arab League, inter-Arab reconciliations, the crystallisation of a united Arab stand in support of the new Palestinian strategy for peace and backing for Iraq in the dispute with Iran, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said Saturday [10 June].

Al-Qasim, in an exclusive interview with the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y, said there was a need for continued pressure on the various Lebanese factions towards national reconciliation and end to the 15-year-old civil strife there.

Al-Qasim called for a united Arab position towards Lebanon and said: "The Iranian military presence in the country is an attempt designed to partition the sovereign Arab state into statelets through deepening sectarianism, which in turn facilitates Israeli plans."

Al-Qasim said two regiments of Iranian soldiers had arrived in Lebanon and more could be arriving soon.

Foreign occupation of Lebanon could be brought to an end when an Arab solution materializes to satisfy the Lebanese and to reassure Syria that it will not be exposed to any Israeli danger through Lebanon, Al-Qasim said. An Arab force stationed in Lebanon could help achieve the end of satisfying Syria, he said.

Then Arab efforts could be directed towards ending Israel's occupation of South Lebanon through implementing the relevant Security Council resolution, he added.

He suggested that the number of U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon could be increased to consolidate the eventual situation.

According to Al-Qasim one of the major obstacles in convening the much-delayed regular Arab summit the Lebanese strife. He expressed hope that the three-member Arab committee formed by the Casablanca summit would be successful in its endeavours to bring peace to Lebanon and thus clear all hurdles in convening the regular gathering of Arab heads of state.

Al-Qasim denied that the six-member ministerial committee on Lebanon had failed in its endeavours and said the new heads-of-state committee was more capable of achieving tangible progress in the issue.

Jordan views the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, he said, as a step enabling Egypt to play a major and effective role based on supporting Arab rights and tackling matters objectively and realistically so as to reach tangible results in Lebanon, Palestine, and the Iraq-Iran conflict.

On the Casablanca summit's position towards the Palestine question, Al-Qasim said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) won a collective approval for its peace strategy.

On the Iraq-Iran dispute, he said, Iraq secured full Arab support and that the Arab Nation looks forward to Iran's positive response by holding negotiations and implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Denying that the dissolved six-member committee on Lebanon had failed in its efforts, Al-Qasim said that the three-member heads-of-state committee had more capability and efficiency to attain tangible progress in the Lebanese question.

Reviewing the situation in Iran in the wake of the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Al-Qasim ruled out radical changes in the Iranian regime in the short run. He discerned continued extremism in the Iranian regime during the next years and a power struggle.

He predicted that internal opposition to the Iranian regime would soon rise to the surface.

Economic Cooperation Agreement With UAE Signed
JN1006065789 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 89 p 6

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reached initial agreement to promote trade and economic cooperation between them.

Under the terms of the agreement, signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Thursday, Jordan and the UAE will encourage the exchange of national agricultural and industrial products between them.

The agreement covers providing facilities for the transportation of national goods across their respective territories and also calls for cooperation between concerned authorities in either country to exchange expertise. In addition, the accord stipulates exerting efforts in conducting economic research and providing facilities for the free flow of capital by businessmen and investors in either country.

The main areas where cooperation will be conducted according to the agreement: tourism, trade, economy, industry and import-export operations.

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad 'Innab and UAE Economy and Trade Minister Sayf Ibn-'Ali al-Jarwan signed the agreement which also includes guidelines for the two countries to participate in exhibitions and fairs held in either country to promote the sale of national goods.

Finally, it was agreed to form a joint committee that would follow up the implementation of the agreement and provide recommendations and resolutions in this respect.

Damascus Said To Approve Draft Plan on Lebanon

JN1106074689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jun (WAM)—The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today published the draft of a plan agreed upon in Damascus, in a bid to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, during the talks held by the Arab ministerial committee comprising the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria.

Arab sources have affirmed to the newspaper that Syria approved this draft, which was relayed to the Lebanese by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the Arab League assistant secretary-general tasked with helping the Arab committee. The plan is expected to be implemented gradually during the coming 3 months after all concerned parties approve it.

The newspaper quoted its Damascus correspondent as saying that Syria voiced its satisfaction with the work of the Arab committee, as Syria believes that the committee moves seek to pave the way for the holding of an expanded national meeting that will necessarily lead to the realization of an inter-Lebanese accord based on the provisions and points contained in the draft plan.

The following is an outline of the draft plan:

—First, a comprehensive cease-fire shall be declared.

—Second, sea and land blockades shall be lifted and crossing points separating East and West Beirut shall be opened. Beirut Airport must once again be operational.

—Third, a mixed brigade of the Lebanese Army under joint command shall be formed. This brigade shall be placed under the supervision of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. Agreements shall ensue on the appointment of officers for a unified operations room.

—Fourth, the administrative Beirut plan shall be revived with the understanding that the aforesaid brigade will be responsible for security therein after the withdrawal of all militias.

—Fifth, the Chamber of Deputies shall be called into session to endorse a constitutional document on reforms. A president for the Republic shall be elected on the same day.

—Sixth, the Arab League assistant secretary-general shall follow up the implementation of the steps designed to carry out these points and shall submit reports to the foreign ministers, who will submit a final report to the three leaders comprising the three-member committee.

The plan contained details for each point on how the steps will be implemented on the ground, especially as regards the launching of the administrative Beirut plan and how a joint Lebanese Army brigade is to be formed.

Iraqi Army Vehicles Reportedly Seen in Beirut

NC1006060089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] The Iraqi regime continues to supply General 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces with arms, ammunition, and other tools of bombardment and destruction.

In this respect, the AL-DUWALIYAH NEWS AGENCY reports in a news dispatch from the eastern area that the citizens of these areas have started to see military vehicles carrying the insignia of the Iraqi Army. The agency emphasized that the Iraqi regime is taking part in the war, which was triggered by General 'Awn against Lebanon's territories, poeple, and property.

Blockade Linked to Iraqi Arms

NC1006151589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] An official source in West Beirut has ruled out the possibility of the blockades being lifted at this stage, adding that the Arab ministerial committee will ask the Iraqi side to stop its arms supplies to the [Michel 'Awn] military government. The source noted that the committee will also discuss with the U.S. Administration the issue of curbing Israeli interference in Lebanese affairs and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The official source stressed that the blockade issue will not be resolved before the Arab ministerial committee winds up its tour as the solution of this issue is contingent on ending the Iraqi arms supplies to the so-called military government and on ending the Israeli elements' acts of sabotage as demonstrated through booby-trapped cars and explosions.

Further on Iraqi Aid

NC1006181389 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 CMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] In yesterday's issue, the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR disclosed that an Iraqi colonel was killed lately in East Beirut. The newspaper said that the Iraqi ruling regime's embassy, which is in Phalangist-controlled East Beirut, instructed its intelligence personnel to investigate the killing.

It is worth mentioning that a large number of the Iraqi regime's experts and officers live in East Beirut where they assist Michel 'Awn's forces and the Samir Ja'ja'-led Phalangist militia in military affairs. They also train the Phalangist forces and the Army in the use of the Iraqi-supplied weapons.

Fadlallah Cited on Impact of Khomeyni's Death

NC0906163189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Political analysts in Beirut believe that if the moderates win the current power struggle in Tehran, the influence of pro-Iranian Lebanese groups will diminish. A Shi'ite analyst in Beirut says that if Hashemi-Rafsanjani wins the Presidency, the Hizballah's future will be endangered, for it will not receive the favorable treatment it used to enjoy.

Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has told REUTER that the death of Ayatollah Khomeyni may weaken his followers in Lebanon, but these followers will continue to be inspired by the revolutionary principles, teachings, and political philosophy of Khomeyni, as Fadlallah put it. Fadlallah said that Iran will change its mode of supporting its followers. He said that there will be major challenges in the post-Khomeyni era, but not major setbacks. Fadlallah said that the pro-Khomeyni Shi'ite Muslims have lost their spiritual father but have become orphans.

Further on Fadlallah Remarks

LD1006102289 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Beirut, June 10, IRNA—Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said Friday that the strong faith and firm will of the late Imam Khomeyni had astounded the entire world.

Speaking at Friday's congregational prayers at Imam Reza (PBUH) [peace be upon him] Mosque in southern Beirut, the al-'allamah allocated a major part of his sermons to describing characteristics of Imam Khomeyni.

Imam Khomeyni through his deeds and words showed that Islam was the best and most elevated base for a popular system in the world, he said.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah said the world arrogance feared this great man and his movement, and utilised all its possibilities in various forms of economic, military and political sanctions and imposing of the (Iraqi) war by its subservient agents against him. When its ploys failed, the world arrogance along with its allies stood against the Islamic revolution with all its modern and devastating means but still did not succeed in weaking the Imam, he said.

Reading parts of Imam Khomeyni's will, he said the imam has drawn the future path not only for Muslims but for those freedom-seeking groups entrapped by oppressors and has urged them not to surrender to tyranny and oppression.

At present, followers of Islam and the late imam must express their allegiance to the imam by continuing his path, he stressed, and adhere to Islam and jihad in all aspects of their life.

Praising the massive and unprecedented participation of the Iranians in the imam's funeral ceremonies, he said people expressed their appreciation to and allegiance with the imam in this way. Their presence was also indicative of their confirmation of the imam's uncompromising line which disappointed the enemies.

He said everybody trusted the new leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i elected by the Experts Assembly Sunday. The new leadership will follow the imam's path which is one of independence and liberation of Islam from the yoke of colonialists by relying on his (Khamene'i's) valuable experiences and the massive support of the ummah.

Muslims in Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and other Islamic lands have learnt from the late imam not to surrender to the East and the West and instead preserve independent relations with the entire world.

Turning to the current crisis in Lebanon and expressing his disappointment with the performance of the three-member Arab Committee (Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria). [sentence as received] Their mission has been limited to preservation of the interests of arrogance, he said.

In another development, the leader of the Islamic Tawhid movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban described Imam Khomeyni as a great man of the contemporary time who inspired Islam with a new life and Muslims with confidence.

Delivering Friday prayers' sermons at Muhammad al-Amin Mosque in Tripoli (Lebanon), he said the imam unveiled the real nature of subservient rulers and U.S. lackeys.

He stressed allegiance of the ummah, with the uncompromising line of the late imam and said his policy, manifested in his will, will be a clue for future problems.

Syrians Said Installing Guns in Al-Biqa'

NC0906170789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The AKHBAR AL-YAWM NEWS AGENCY today carried reports about large Syrian reinforcements in the al-Biqa' area, particularly in the plain extending between Ba'labakk and Zahlah. In this area, the agency says, the Syrians erected artillery emplacements amid the tents of the bedouins living there. The Syrians covered these emplacements with tents similar in color to those of the bedouins' tents and built earthen ramparts around them as they did with their tanks there.

Eastern Areas Shelled; Clashes in West Beirut

NC1106143789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces did not stop attacking the eastern areas today. They shelled the Jubayl coastal area and some areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Clashes involving heavy weapons took place in the vicinity of Sabra and Shatila camps in West Beirut just before noon today.

Army Positions Shelled

NC1106163789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have been subjected to shellfire from Syrian positions and Junblatt's positions since 1705. The Syrian attacks later intensified to involve the Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh. Residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah came under intensive sniper fire from armed positions in West Beirut this morning.

Meanwhile, the al-'Ijjah-al-Barbir crossing point remains closed for all cars including those belonging to the Red Cross. Pedestrian crossing depends on the prevailing situation. [passage omitted]

Mountain Areas Under 'Awn Militia Mortar Fire

NC1106171589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Since this afternoon and until now, 'Alayh city has been coming under 81-mm and 120-mm mortar fire from the 'Awn militia positions. This militia has also shelled the Ra's al-Jabal axis, the al-Karamah road, 'Aytat town, and the Baysur-Majlayah road.

Assembly Speaker Receives Libyan Counterpart

JN0706150589 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Damascus, 7 Jun (SANA)—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received here today Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar, secretary of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting, talks centered on relations between the two fraternal countries in the parliamentary field, in addition to the agenda of the fifth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union which will be held in Abu Dhabi between 18 and 20 of this month [June].

They affirmed the importance of cooperation and development in the policies and opinions on the proposed issues, working toward rendering the conference a success, and deepening the bases of joint Arab action.

Fadlallah Speaks in Damascus on Khomeyni

NC1106064789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of Lebanon's outstanding clergymen, stated in his description of Imam Khomeyni's qualities: The deceased imam of the Islamic ummah broke down the walls that world arrogance and its allies had built around true Islam and revived the mission of Muhammad, peace be upon him, after 1,400 years.

Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah was attending a ceremony last night in Damascus to commemorate the heart-rending loss of the imam of the ummah. Describing the outstanding qualities of the leader of the Islamic revolution, he stated that being faithful to the imam's principles is the best way of being faithful to the leader of the revolution.

During the ceremony, which was attended by clerical and cultural personalities and by Muslims from Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan, Iraq, and Persian Gulf countries, Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said: The imam of the ummah led a revolution which upset the balance of the two arrogant powers of the East and West and created a third power against them. Both superpowers fear this third power to the same degree. Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah added: The presence of the imam of the ummah on the world's political scene during the past decade with his fiery words and celestial attraction broke the idols of the century and instilled new strength in the Muslims of the world who had weakened under the shadow of their governments. The imam of the ummah brought back grandeur, respect, and self-reliance to the world's Muslims and the oppressed. He even taught non-Muslim deprived people how to rise before the arrogant, the tyrants, and the oppressors.

Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah stated: The strong will of the imam of the ummah was not weakened by Star Wars, the navies of the United States, France, and Britain, or by Saddam's imposed war. Imam Khomeyni was like a great mountain who stood in front of Satanic powers by relying on unending divine strength of the oppressed people. He made Muslim unity possible.

The distinguished Lebanese clergyman pointed out: The imam of the ummah was a martyr among the martyrs of Islam. He was one wounded among the wounded and an orphan among orphans. During his fruitful life, he was martyred and wounded a thousand times over each day for his Islamic ummah, and he was a father to orphans.

In conclusion, Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah referred to the active presence of the supporters of the imam of the ummah in Lebanon and said: The sincere and true followers of the imam are those who have made the teachings of their deceased leader the epigraph of their life both in their words and deeds and are those who follow the imam.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Arab Lebanon Committee

JN1106061289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jun 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms that Arab Syria has always been at the forefront of the Arab parties seeking to serve Arab objectives and heal Arab wounds, and adds: Syria has also made a habit of showing responsiveness to pan-Arab causes, responding favorably to all efforts seeking to serve the Arab nation's interests and safeguard the pan-Arab cause. Hence, the Syrian Arab response to the three-member committee demonstrated this great credibility which is commensurate with the Arab nation's need to create a situation in which there would be no attempts to divide Arab efforts.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The fact that struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad promised to help the three-member committee to secure the basic needs of the Lebanese citizen does not mean that Syria is a party to the conflict. No, this promise was made because the Lebanese geographic, demographic, and security situation directly affects Syria and its pan-Arab aspirations.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which has always been eager to assist joint Arab action, would very much like to affirm its categorical rejection of all attempts to replace Arab efforts with international ones. At the same time, Syria would like to assert that any endeavors for Lebanon must result in the victory of the unified and independent Arab Lebanon.

Saddam Husayn Called 'Tyrant,' 'Executioner'

JN1206064889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jun 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "Cooperation Between Saddam and the Enemy Is Targeted Against Our Nation's Causes", AL-BA'TH says: It has become clear that Saddam al-Takriti is deeply involved in the plot against Lebanon—its people and territory. The executioner, who killed thousands of the Iraqi people and played his suspect role to destroy both Iraq and Iran—the revolution—in order to remove them from the main battle against the Zionist enemy and its expansionist ambitions, has turned, together with Israel, to Lebanon to kill Lebanese and divide the homeland. Every time Lebanon comes closer to safety the hands of treason and deception are raised against it to block Lebanese salvation.

AL-BA'TH adds: The old and new cooperation between the tyrant and the Zionist enemy has been revealed. Western and enemy reports confirmed that Saddam al-Takriti asked the Zionists to allow him to supply 'Awn with arms through their ports. AL-BA'TH says: Certainly, we are not disclosing something new about the cooperation [with Israel] of this executioner who is thirsty for Arab blood. It has become a fact that needs no proof. The Iraqi people, who have been aware of this fact since the tyrant came to power in Iraq, know full well how to remove this nightmare.

Under the headline "The Iraqi Regime Stands in the Israeli Trench," TISHRIN says: When the Iraqi regime insists on backing 'Awn militarily it is practically implementing the Zionist scheme to destroy Lebanon and prevent the brothers in Lebanon from embarking on a national dialogue that will lead to comprehensive reforms and parliamentary and presidential elections.

TISHRIN says: Now that the Casablanca summit has stressed the need to achieve reforms and a national solution, it means that those who oppose the summit resolution are in fact torpedoing its findings and policy on the Lebanese problem. This is what the Iraqi regime is doing when it supports 'Awn, publicizes its relations with the Zionist entity, and fights in the enemy's trench against Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Destroy Munitions, Tanks in Balkh

BK1206154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, in a major operation at Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh Province, the mujahidin have reportedly wiped out a large ammunition depot, destroying 60,400 tonnes of arms and ammunition. A total of 170 tanks, recently acquired by the Kabul regime from the Soviet Union, were also destroyed in explosions. The Mazar-e Sharif Airport has also been badly damaged. Three hundred Kabul regime soldiers were killed in this operation.

Meanwhile, before launching a decisive attack on another major city, Qandahar, the mujahidin have asked the civilians to vacate the city. The city airport has already been completely besieged by the mujahidin.

Attack Kabul Airport 11 Jun

BK1106114289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 11 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners fired five rockets at Kabul Airport Sunday [11 June], but there were no immediate reports of casualties, officials and residents said.

A senior security officer at the airport said the first missile landed at 11.30 a.m. (0630 GMT) and the last 90 minutes later.

All landed wide of the tarmac area, where several passenger aircraft had stood earlier in the day, he said.

Residents said one of the rockets landed on the road leading to the VIP terminal, about 300 metres from the airport building, and that the four others had impacted in a military area at the southwest end of the airport.

The last rocket attack on Kabul took place Monday night, when four missiles wounded six people. On June 3, a barrage of 37 rockets hit the city and the area around the airport, killing between 15 and 17 people, according to official counts.

Destroy Helicopters at Qandahar

BK1006003289 Hong Kong AFP in English 2305 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 9 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels said Friday [9 June] they destroyed six Soviet helicopters and a petrol station in an attack on the airport at Afghanistan's second city, Qandahar, which is controlled by government troops. The mujahidin did not say what types of helicopter were destroyed, or what forces participated in the operation Tuesday [6 June].

Fighting has subsided in recent months around the southern city, where groups supporting former King Zahir Shah are active. Sources said several thousand Afghan refugees living in Pakistan had returned home during the lull in the fighting.

The mujahidin said they captured 300 soldiers and seized arms, including 500 Kalashnikov rifles, after heavy fighting Wednesday in northern Jowzjan Province near the Soviet border.

(In the Pakistan border town of Peshawar, where hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees have fled over the past decade, nine adults and seven children were injured when a Soviet-made time bomb exploded on Friday in a market, police said.

(It was the first serious bombing in Peshawar since January 11, when four people were killed and 14 injured.

(Pakistani authorities have several times accused the Soviet-backed Kabul government of responsibility for bombings which have claimed some 600 lives in recent years.)

Kabul Intensifies Bombings; Civilians Killed

BK1006113489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of intensified and heavy bombings by Kabul regime fighters in the surroundings of Herat, where serious clashes between mujahidin and the regime forces are continuing. AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, quoting mujahidin sources, says as a result of the indiscriminate bombings, a large number of civilians were killed and injured. It said in spite of the bombings, Kabul regime forces failed to push back the mujahidin from Herat city. The mujahidin have been blocking the supply route from Towraghondi to Herat and onward to Qandahar.

Another report says the mujahidin also attacked the military camp in the subdivisional town of Shahrak in Ghowr Province.

Governor Reportedly Defects to Mujahidin

BK0906143289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the governor of Laghman Province has sent a message through a delegation to the mujahidin commanders, saying that if he and his associates are pardoned for the mistakes (?committed) by them in the past, they will lay down their arms after the victory of Jalalabad. Mujahidin commanders have told the delegation that the governor of Laghman and others can take advantage of the general amnesty announced by the mujahidin. But their condition to lay

down arms after the (?victory) of Jalalabad is not acceptable. However, the commanders have asked the delegation to inform the governor that if he does not want bloodshed, he should defect to the mujahidin within 15 days and call back his security contingents from around Mehtarlam city.

India

5 Killed in Bomb Explosion in Jammu, Kashmir

BK1006160089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, June 10 (AFP)—Five people were killed and four seriously injured when a bomb exploded on Saturday [10 June] outside the home of a police officer in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The bomb exploded at the house in Sudhpora village in the early morning, killing five people as they slept, police said. The injured were hospitalised and doctors described their condition as "out of danger".

Police suspect pro-Pakistani militants to be behind the blast, although no one has claimed responsibility.

Jammu and Kashmir state borders Pakistan, and the region's police department has blamed pro-Pakistani persons for setting off several bombs in the past.

Railway Bombing Kills 'At Least' 6, Injures 40

BK1206091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] At least six persons were killed and several others injured in a bomb explosion at the New Delhi railway station this morning. According to the police, the blast occurred near the booking office on the Paharganj side of the railway station. Over 40 of the injured have been rushed to the Central Railway Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and the Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narayan Hospital.

The railway minister, Mr Madhavrao Scindia, who visited the site of the explosion, has announced an ex-gratia payment of 5,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those killed in the blast and 2,000 rupees to the seriously injured. Mr Scindia described the incident as a major tragedy. He said no words are enough to condemn it. He also visited the three hospitals. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr Romesh Bhandari, also visited the site.

The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, after visiting the spot, reports that the running of trains from the New Delhi railway station is by and large normal. There is no panic among the passengers.

The divisional manager of the Northern Railways, Mr Vijay Khanwar, told our correspondent that there was a loud explosion of severe intensity at about 1030 am. The powerful explosion hurled the bodies as high as the ceiling. The injured were removed to the hospital within minutes. The police have conducted a thorough search to ensure that there were no explosives elsewhere at the station.

The persons who want to inquire about the incident may ring up telephone numbers 343339 and 311376.

Iran

Araki Named 'Paramount Religious Leader'

LD1206151589 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 12 Jun 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki has been declared by a group of prominent theologians as a marja' taqlid, or paramount religious leader.

In response to separate questions by people and theological students, Ayatollahs 'Abdollah Javadi Amoli, Yusef Sane'i, Bani Fazl, Hoseyn Nuri, Mohammad Shahabadi, and Jalaleddin Taheri, advised that they follow the grand ayatollah in religious matters.

The declarations were headline news in almost all daily papers Monday.

The questions were from the followers of the late Imam Khomeyni who was the paramount religious leader, as well as leader of the Islamic Republic, before he passed away last Saturday.

Araki, who is nearly 100 years old, was once the teacher of the late imam Khomeyni, who died at the age of 86, in the Qom theological school.

There are a number of other religious leaders whom Iranians and other Shi'a Muslims follow, including Grand Ayatollahs Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, Shahaboddin Marashi Najafi, Abolqasem Khoi'e, and Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Shi'a Muslims follow a leader in various religious matters which engulf nearly all aspects of daily life such as the way to perform prayers, fasting rituals during the month of Ramadan, how to pay Islamic taxes and details of performing the hajj.

Araki has written a Towzih al-Masa'il, which paramount religious leaders usually write to explain their decrees on various matters for their followers.

In a statement published Saturday, Araki declared that the people could still carry out their religious duties according to the late imam's Towzih al-Masail.

Ayatollah Javadi Amoli backed the grand ayatollah's religious leadership in a statement praising Araki's piety and confirmed that "it is lawful and permissible to follow him."

Foreign Ministry Denies Hostages Moved to Tehran

LD1206153189 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 12 June 89

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today categorically dismissed rumours that Western citizens missing in Beirut had been transferred to Tehran.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Islamic Republic of Iran has no information on the whereabouts of Westerners reportedly missing in Lebanon.

He said such rumours were circulated by certain segments of the media linked with international Zionism.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference

LD0906000989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1808 GMT 8 Jun 89

[News conference by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, with foreign and domestic correspondents on 8 June in Tehran—recorded; questions from foreign correspondents in English or Arabic, with Persian translation; Hashemi-Rafsanjani's answers in Persian with translation into English]

[Text] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I welcome all you gentlemen. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Because the number of reporters is great, I will not take up your time by giving an introductory speech. I am ready to answer all your questions.

[REUTER] First, allow me to express my condolences for that great calamity. As a candidate for the Presidency of Iran, following the death of Imam Khomeyni, will all of the constitutional amendments already agreed be changed? And third, do you see that Iran needs an executive president?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What does he mean?

[Interpreter] He means powerful.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Regarding the first question, I had hitherto assumed that maybe some one from among the Iranian dignitaries would be prepared to become a presidential candidate, but no one has yet come forward, and so I agreed and announce that, yes, I am ready for presidency. Hence I declare my candidacy.

In respect to the second question, the edict which the imam issued regarding the amendment of the Constitution remains in force, and the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution is at work. We convened a session yesterday, and the very project which was foreseen will be implemented.

As regards the need for a concentrated executive branch, yes, one of the amendments to our Constitution is that we need to have a concentrated executive branch which could resolve the country's problems.

[AL-BAYAN] What will Iran's future relations be with the Arabic countries, which were mentioned in the imam's will? What is your view about the Tripartite Committee on Lebanon?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As regards the Arab countries, especially the Persian Gulf states, our policy is based on the expansion of relations and good-neighborliness. There are no obstacles on our part. Recently we have received positive signs from the Persian Gulf states, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, and we deemed them positive.

Regarding Lebanon, we want to see peace and calm in accordance with the people's rights. But to what extent it will be successful I cannot predict that their success will be very good, and there is need for help from others.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE] At the moment issues from the Constitution are under appraisal. Would you please tell us what are the most important issues discussed, and in this connection will the power given to the president increase, and will the post of the prime minister be abolished?

Second question: The European Parliament has made a decision regarding the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran, the expulsion of Iran from European organizations, and its substitution by the Mojahedin [-e Khalq] Organization. What is your opinion in this respect?

Third question: U.S. President Bush announced that if Iran starts to work in the interest of freeing the U.S. hostages in Lebanon, it is possible that the two countries' relations should improve. How does Your Excellency assess this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the Presidency of the executive branch in general, in the first session of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution it was decided that the president should be the head of the executive branch and the post of the prime minister will either be abolished, or he may remain as the deputy president or perhaps as the official in charge of the cabinet. But, in any case the axis will be the president, in this amendment.

Regarding the opinion of some of the European Parliament's representatives, I replied to them in the Friday prayers. We place no value on this opinion, and fortunately, the European governments paid no attention either. Even the Western mass media made fun of the European Parliament, because some of their members had fallen into the traps of some recognized terrorists.

As regards Mr Bush's remarks, we said before that if the Americans who have more influence than we have amongst the Phalangists of Lebanon, if they take an initiative in freeing our hostages, then they could expect us to help, if we can. In any case, this does not mean that we have no responsibility in Lebanon.

[MILLIYET] The Turkish Government is worried about the support given by your government to the Islamic movement in Turkey. After the death of Imam Khomeyni, should we expect a change of attitude on your part which may improve the relationship between the two countries. Second, the Bulgarian Government is expelling Turks to Turkey, and until now there has been no reaction from your government. Can we hear it now please?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As regards his first question, our policy is not that of interference in the domestic policy of other countries, especially our neighbors. If by support you mean that in our remarks we have supported Islam and the Muslims in the world, this is not something which specifically regards Turkey. We are supporting Islam. Do you think that these remarks mentioned in the Turkish press, or the government policy, are because they have problems with respect to the Muslims inside the country, and they want to connect this to the outside to somehow give a bad name to the domestic movement? Indeed, if you have any documents pointing to our interference, please display them. Even the references to our embassy or our ambassador were not correct.

Regarding the second issue, we have had contact with the Bulgarian Government. They do not accept this accusation and claim that they will respect the rights of the Bulgarian Muslims. Of course, we will follow this up and believe that they will carry out the promise which they have made us.

[TASS] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent a message of condolence to Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader and president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this message, he stressed that the recent improvement in Soviet-Iranian relations began in the time of Imam Khomeyni. What is your opinion about the future relations between the two neighboring countries, especially in the commercial and economic fields?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] My view is positive, and I can clearly see progress at the start of this task, in the expansion of ties. As he has graciously indicated, the main move toward the expansion of ties began in the time of our great leader, his eminence the imam, and for this reason, during his eminence's last days, when my trip there [Soviet Union] became definite, I went to his excellency, and consulted him about our problems. His excellency graciously said: Try to have good relations with our great northern neighbor. We reiterate that this was his excellency the imam's policy. Right now, the preliminaries of the agreement which we have prepared expanding economic, cultural, and political relations are taking shape. As Mr Gorbachev has said, the two sides are eager to expand relations.

[MAINICHI] First of all, I would like to express my condolences to Your Excellency and the people. My question concerns the presidential elections that are to take place on 18 August. Has this schedule been changed? And my second question is that I have heard that Your Excellency is going to visit the Soviet Union, probably next week. Are you going to postpone this, or what will your schedule be?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the election date, so far no decision has been made about changing the election date. We hope that these elections will take place as scheduled. As regards my trip to the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union and Iran have reached an agreement in principle on the date of the visit, and the necessary preparations have been made. In my view, this visit will take place at the time which has already been decided. Of course, we have not yet announced the exact date of the visit. We will announce it when it is finalized.

[OBSERVER] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani—(Shahab Bakhtiar) from the OBSERVER. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a year ago when I interviewed you, you told me that the hijacker of the Kuwaiti jet would be arrested and brought to trial. It has since transpired that some of the hijackers boarded the jet in Mashhad, and many others have since been spotted back in Iran. Some of them are believed to have been among the Hezbollah delegation which came here. Can you tell me what have you done to bring them to justice?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] All those things which have been said are like other rumors—devoid of any value or credibility. Regarding the trial, a writ has been given to our judicial organizations, which states that if they were put into their hands, they should put them on trial. I am not informed on the details of this matter.

[SEDAQAT] [Indian news agency] Your Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, some observers believe that with the amendment to the Constitution, the concentration of power in the judicial branch, and your election as the president, great changes will occur in the country. Some believe that economic matters will occupy a special place. In other words, the maintenance of social welfare will constitute one of your principle projects. We would like your opinion. In addition, the world considers you to be a politician whose actions are based on logic, and believes that you oppose the lack of a program. They consider you to be the future president of the country; a

president who, following the amendment to the Constitution, will enjoy special privileges. How would you assess this with respect to foreign relations and domestic policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As for my election presenting a change, I do not accept that. Our movement's trend is continuing as you can see, and I am one of the servants whose responsibility may take that form. As for economic and welfare issues taking priority in our projects, I think that now following the past problems, the problems which people faced as a result of the war and the conditions of the revolutions, one of the much needed tasks is to care for people's lives, and to take initiatives on the country's economic prosperity [rownaq-e eqtesadi]. My opinion on this has been announced as one of the more important projects. No, they should not consider that this constitutes the entire mission [resalat]. As regards its implementation, that falls within the framework of the 5-year plan which is currently being drawn up in the Majlis. Naturally, I will work within the framework of the plan and not according to my personal viewpoints. I see the future of the economy—with respect to our country's resources—as being good, and I believe that the atmosphere is favorable. The rest of my colleagues and friends also hold this opinion, and so there will be cooperation to this end.

[Peter Sharp, Independent Television News] It has now been several months since the threats were issued against the author, Salman Rushdie. Have any moves been made toward a compromise on this issue? A settlement would obviously help to reestablish links with the UK.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In legislation that the Majlis ratified, we have left the way open for the British Government to act. As mentioned in the Majlis legislation, which is now law for us, we said that if Britain acts according to this legislation, the way to compromise will be opened. It is now up to your own government.

[BBC] Mr Speaker, some months ago, you were quoted as offering to help find British hostages who are missing in Lebanon, if the archbishop of Canterbury tried to find the missing Iranians. He did that, although he came up with a negative response. Did you meet your part of the bargain? If so, does it mean you failed and are you prepared to try again?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No serious action was taken by the British Government or by the archbishop. They never informed us of their results. Even the news about the martyrdom of our hostages was not properly relayed to us. We think that there is some kind of deception at work there; that is, they do not want to admit officially that they have the power to influence the Phalangists. They are not honest like us. We say that we can possibly help. It seems as if they do not value their own people, their compatriots. They do not want to act in order to release their people. I wish to say again that if the British or the U.S. Government who do have influence over the Phalangists, do take serious action to release our hostages, we in turn will use the little influence we have to help your hostages.

[NBC] Mr Speaker, may I at first protest against what I consider excessive security measures that have been taken today. Many others have been subjected to having watches, rings, even the coins of your own country taken away from us, as if they would be weapons to be used here. My question in fact concerns the coins of your country. Can you tell us specifically what measures you will take to improve the economy here?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I will refer this protest to the person in charge of Majlis security. We do not favor strict measures to this extent, but our officials are somewhat afraid of Americans. That might be the reason for their cautious measures. We will tell them not to be afraid of correspondents, who are not responsible for what the Americans do. Regarding the country's economic affairs, we have a plan. I have mentioned that the country's 5-year plan is being ratified. Once it has been ratified, you will be able to listen to your radio and hear discussions in the Majlis and find out what plans we have to improve our economic reconstruction.

[BILD-ZEITUNG] Sir, what do you expect Germany, particularly your friend Foreign Minister Genscher, to do for the future of your country? Second, are there still any death threats to be executed? Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our only expectation from Germany and other countries is to reduce their wickedness. We do not ask for anything else. If both sides find it in their interests, they will work with each other within normal relations. In Iran, regarding executions, this is another wicked point which is stressed by the West, especially the Germans. Those who have committed treachery, murder, assassinations, have planted bombs, have spied all will be punished—what you yourselves did in Europe after the war. Your way was 10 times harsher. Here, we consider many things and only punish those traitors who do not deserve to be pardoned.

[Spanish Television] Your Excellency, this is [name indistinct] from Spanish Television. During the time we have been in this country in the last few days, we have noticed that there are many people who have been dissatisfied with the path of the Iranian revolution in the last few months. Are you going to do anything in the next few months, if you become a president, concerning this situation? And are you also going to do anything to help Iranians out of the country of return? Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the dissatisfaction, could you clarify this? In which way?

[Spanish Television] As I have discovered, there are many people who are dissatisfied with the state of the economy, with the radical steps taken by the Guardians of the Revolution, with the way they live in this country.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If there are people who are dissatisfied—no doubt there might be such people, but the people's behavior toward the esteemed imam's death and their loyalty to the revolution—which you yourselves have witnessed—should make you realize that the masses strongly support the revolution and are honest toward the revolution. Concerning those who live abroad, a large majority face no obstacles to returning. A large group of them comprise those who could not bear the problems brought by war and who left the country for various reasons. Some of them have committed crimes in this country. We have not yet proclaimed a general amnesty. Those who have committed a major crime are at present being investigated. But the majority of the others can return—many have done so and are living here. [speaking to interpreter] Would you ask him whether he has seen the way people behaved [after Khomeyni's death]?

[Spanish Television] I have seen many many thousands, probably millions, who are satisfied and some others who are not satisfied, that is why I was asking the question. Thank you very much Your Excellency for answering me.

[INDEPENDENT] The slogan of the revolution has always been "Neither East nor West" and yet from your earlier remarks it would appear that relations at the moment are rather warm with the East which, after all, was one of Iraq's suppliers during the Gulf War, and yet relations with the West would generally appear to be bad. How do you explain this phenomenon?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The slogan "Neither East nor West" is still as valuable as ever. It means that we will not establish any dependence on the East or the West. But, we do not have anything against having good relations with the East and the West. About the East: As you mentioned, during the war they followed bad policies and supported Iraq. They were present illegally in Afghanistan. We did not approve of the situation inside the USSR because of the Communist Party's policies. In our view, with Gorbachev's coming to power all three issues were resolved. They withdrew their forces from Afghanistan. They decided not to pay much attention to Iraq and stated they should treat both countries equally. Inside the USSR, Gorbachev's wise policies have effected a positive change. We now see that country as quite suitable for establishing friendly relations. In the West, this has not been the case. In the West, from the beginning, the United States and some European countries followed hostile politices toward us. They helped Iraq in the war—lokk at the situation regarding France. The United States entered into a state of war with us in order to save Iraq. After the war, too, the West committed a big mistake. The West thought that we would need it for our reconstruction. They began dealing with us from a bullying position. You saw a clear instance in this respect in "The Satanic Verses" affair, when they tried to approach us from a domineering position. This is what our "Neither East nor West" policy opposes. We have proved to them that they have made a mistake. If they come down from their high horses and if they deal with us the same way as the USSR does, then they would see the other side of the coin as well.

[(Name indistinct) Television from Tokyo] I am wondering whether Iran will revise its position on obtaining foreign loans and technical assistance from Western countries for the reconstruction of your economy and, on behalf of the Japanese people, may I ask you to answer this question looking at my camera over there?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding foreign loans, we are at the same stage as officially announced in the Majlis and in the Supreme Reconstruction Council's policies. We have not decided to ask for a direct loan and we do not think we need it. In other forms, for instance asking our friends to help us with our important projects and complete them and be paid in installments according to contracts, we have accepted this. Our current year's budget, ratified by the Majlis, has provisions for contracts with foreign companies to provide the credit needed. Once the project is completed, payments will be made from the foreign exchange income or savings resulting from these projects. [Words indistinct] has also been a feature of our budget every year and we have accepted it. We have not decided yet to apply for any other kind of loan and we think that we do not need anything like that. With regard to Japan and looking toward your camera, there are so many cameras here, how should I know which is yours? [The interpreter introduces French Television but Hashemi-Rafsanjani interrupts] About the United States correspondent's question, Majlis security has replied. The answer is that the gentlemen were supposed to hand in their equipment 24 hours ago, which they did not. They brought in their equipment soon before the interview, which made security checks very difficult. If the gentlemen have had any problems it has been because they did not heed our instructions.

[French Television] How do you see the future of relations between France and Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In my view, the future is not very bright in the short term. I do not see anything good on the horizon. There are power centers in France, it appears, which are strongly hostile toward Islam and the Islamic revolution. Every time a solution has been found to improve relations, these centers have destroyed it. It seems that the French leaders are not brave enough take into account France's own interests.

[UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL] Mr Speaker, [name indistinct] from UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL. In the last few days we have seen a massive

turn out of people to mourn for the late Ayatolah Khomeyni. In a few months, as you will be the only candidate, you should be elected president of Iran. What is your vision for the next decade for these people who came out today. There are outstanding problems such as the war, the economy. What is your vision for the future, for the next 10 years? Thank you.]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As you have said, the massive turnout of people for the imam's funeral procession underscores the people's support for running the country. This is what we rely on in resolving the country's problems. That is why we see a good future for our country in the next 10 years. We have named the next decade one of reconstruction and construction. You are aware that our country has many rich resources to support the country's economy. We are the second richest country as far as natural gas resources are concerned. In oil resources, the way we are using it now, we have proven resources lasting for the next 100 years. Our steel mills and the mills under construction will in the near future provide us with 7 to 8 million tons of steel. In our petrochemical industry we have huge factories under construction, quite apart from the one we are building with Japan, which does not have a clear future at the moment. These will meet our needs. The capacity of those factories which have been built and completed, those which meet our consumption needs is very high.

We will be able to provide raw materials after the war. We will have a high production level. Our agricultural production capacity is very good and we can become self-sufficient. Our mines are among the most important economic assets. We have about 11 billion tons of proven valuable mining resources. Our copper ranks high in the world. We have recently worked on our gold mine and we are equipping other mines. We have many big projects under way to build power plants and dams, a major part of which will be consolidated during my visit to the USSR. We see a good future before us. Of course, the war is not finished yet, but we have decided to finish the war. We will not make any concessions. From their experiences in the war, the Iraqis know that the war is not in their interest. They would not easily agree to restart the war either. It might be that period of limbo, no war and no peace, will continue for some time yet.

[Brooks] Mr Speaker, Geraldine Brooks from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. President 'Ali Khamene'i has been named as the spiritual leader of Iran. You may soon be president with enhanced powers. Which of you will have a role most closely approximating the role of the late Imam Khomeyni? In the West there is often characterized a division between you and the current president, that you favor more free enterprise in the economy, that you favor the possibility of opening to the West, and that the president has different views. Is this a correct characterization. Finally, this morning you said something very encouraging about the prospects for better relations with the United States, that there is no impediment, but many people in the United States were dismayed by your recent statement that if five Westerners were killed for every Palestinian, it would bring an end to the conflict in Palestine. Is not this creating an impediment to improved relations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The lady has gone through the trouble of putting a full-length veil on; a scarf would have been enough.

[Brooks] I did it in a spirit of mutual respect.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Thank you. She has asked many questions. With regards to the differences of opinions between me and other officials including His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, this is another incorrect judgment by the West. When we hear such judgments about internal affairs of our country in your media, it seems to us like someone talking about what goes on inside Mars or Venus, like firing shots in the dark. It is as if they do not have any idea about the internal affairs of this country. Assessments are unfortunately very uninformed. For us it is interesting because it indicates that Western intelligence and influence does not exist in our country. Of course, Ayatollah Khamene'i's role is one of leadership. Naturally, his excellency will have the first role in the country. At present, I have a role in the parliament. Even if I am elected as the president, I will still have an exectuive role. With regard to relations with the West, we are still saying what we have always said We are prepared to establish relations, but on an equal footing and in a way that one side does not intend to dominate the other. We do not seek to dominate and will not tolerate it from others. In the special recent case that this lady has mentioned, quoting me on tit-for-tat measures to be taken by Palestinians, it is possible to interpret what I have said in the sermon as she has pointed out. But my real view is not and has never been that. My intention was to present an analysis and warn the West that their way and their support for the crimes committed by Israel against defenseless people might result in Palestinians seeking revenge from your people. This was what I meant. Apparently, I worded it in a way that it was interpreted as this lady has mentioned. I explained this in my interviews afterward

[Brooks] Perhaps we would be able to improve our understanding if in the future Westerners were given more access to the country. We hope that the invitation to come to the funeral will be repeated many times in the future so that we can come and get firsthand experience here. Will you be trying to improve that for the Western press sir?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Very well.

[KAYHAN (Arabic)] The remarks made by Western leaders makes it clear that the Western world would only improve its relations with Iran if this country deviates from the path of the imam of the ummah. What is Your Excellency's view in this respect and what new strategies have you got in mind for the Islamic Republic's foreign

policy? What direction will the negotiations with Iraq take? Do you not think that the position of the Islamic Republic with regard to the recent resolution passed by the leaders of Arab countries about turning over Shatt al-'Arab has been a weak one?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Several important issues have been raised here. About the West's imposing conditions for improving relations, this is quite the reverse; it is we who have stated conditions, not them. We have said that they should abandon their previous notion that Iran should be one of their satellites. They should approach the Islamic revolution as an independent and innovative revolution. With regard to the imam's path, the revolution's goals and dreams are not to be subjected to deals. In the future, the revolution's goals as the imam had set them will be adhered to—of course, not as the Westerners explain, calling them fundamentalist, but goals of the revolution in their pure and unadulterated form, as the imam had said. About our negotiations with Iraq, we demand the exact implementation of Resolution 598; we will not accept anything less.

About the resolution passed by the Arab summit, which the correspondent said Iran's position toward was weak, in my view, the issue is quite different. Our media did not publish it. The resolution was not quoted correctly here. We were informed that Iraq had asked the conference to announce Iraq's sovereignty over the whole of Shatt al-'Arab [as heard]; they did not accept it, there was an argument, and in the end it was put down as Iraq's right in the Shatt al-'Arab. If this report is correct, we are not against it either; that is, along the Shatt al-'Arab-Arvand River there is the boundary line, the thalweg. Iraq has sovereignty over part of the Shatt al-'Arab and Iran has sovereignty over another part. The Arvand River is the name we call this river by because of our right over it. Shatt al-'Arab is the name the Iraqis call it by because of their right.

We have heard that one of the Arabic papers has written that Saddam arrived at the conference like a peacock and left it like a chicken simply because the conference did not agree with his demand. If this report is right then the resolution of the conference was entirely in Iraq's interest. We take it that it is or else they would have said something of no importance and no value to us. [sentence as heard] We base our negotiations for solving our problems with Iraq on the 1975 Algiers Accord. I think in the end Iraq will have no other option but to accept it.

[IL GIORNALE] Mr Speaker, cooperation between Iran and the West has been made difficult by episodes like the Rushdie affair. Do you think in the future such episodes are less likely to happen and that cultural understanding will be improved between our countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This issue was created by the West. The West was responsible for publishing the book because they had been told that the book is dangerous. Second, after the imam's verdict, which was a religious edict, the West created a great commotion noise and behaved inappropriately. The edict was on the basis of our belief. If a Muslim commits such a sin, this is the punishment and the religious edict that the imam had to announce. The West could solve this problem. He could have been put on trial as someone who has insulted the emotions of 1 billion Muslims, one who has darkened the relations between divine religions, one who has brought about a worsening of relations between Western countries and the Muslims, one who has endangered security. You can still do it. In Britain itself such books have been banned in the past. [Word indistinct] like this have been banned in the United States and elsewhere. There was a precedence. We did not do anything out of the ordinary. The West, from its position of pride and thinking that Iran is weak and needs help, behaved in a proud manner and created this situation. The solution lies with you as well.

[JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE] The influence of the Islamic revolution went far beyond the borders of Iran and had major political impact in the other countries such as Lebanon. Will the new leadership of Iran continue to support the struggles of the revolutionary movements in those countries, and will you send troops into Lebanon?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regards to our support of the Islamic movements in Lebanon, this is just and we do it because the majority of the people in Lebanon are Muslim and the rights of the Muslims in Lebanon are being forfeited, and according to your own criteria—meaning that the Western democracy dictates this—it is this majority of the people who should be the decision makers. But in practice, you do not accept this right for the Lebanese people. As for our deployment of troops there, we have some little force there, and the quantity which has been stated is not correct. Our forces mainly play an educational and human-relief role. They do not take part in any clashes, whatsoever. They proved cultural and humanitarian support. As for the Islamic revolution having gone beyond the boundaries, yes, I do accept that, and a clear example was that rally staged by the Muslims in London a few days ago, which as admitted by your own media was one of the rare events in Europe. It is natural that these people have to a certain extent drawn their inspiration from the Islamic movements within Iran. Of course, it is they who carry out such actions, even though the Islamic revolution has had some influence, because it has been their inspiration. Such similar events have existed for the revolution in other places too.

[ASSOCIATED PRESS] In the joint statement you signed earlier this week with the president, the prime minister, and the chief justice, there was an appeal for unity, and newspaper editorials have also stress this point. This makes us feel that there is a very definate danger of this unity breaking up. What is your comment on this? If I may revert to the question of the hostages, there appears to be some reluctance on your part to act

for the release of the hostages unless the West does something for the release of the Iranians. Can we as journalists whose colleagues have been held hostage for more than 2 years ask you to issue an appeal for the release of the hostages?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the first part of the question, that unity may be breaking up in Iran, this is one of the usual mistakes of the West. In Iran the issues of the revolution are real for us, and we are all prepared to be sacrificed in the interest of the revolution. However, the deliberations are serious, and we do hold discussions. Those interpretations of yours such as radical, moderate, and so on are mere illusions. Just as I said, you are like someone who is speaking from Mars.

Regarding the second question, as a journalist you should ask Mr Bush, who also had influence during the Reagan administration, how can he, in spite of the existing enmity and animosity in the U.S. policy toward Iran, expect us to resolve its problems in places where we are not responsible? Of course, we are extremely eager to help a person in need whenever we see one. However, the officials from your country—and altogether nearly all Western countries—are not seriously pursuing resolutions of this issue.

Ask them why is it that our assests in the United States are still blocked. Have you ever as a free journalist thought of convincing yourself? Tell me now, if you are convinced. Why is it that Iranian assets in the United States are now blocked? The United States is acting like a highway robber or sea pirate because it holds our assets and does not return them to us. Why? As a goodwill gesture, I said that if they give us back what is ours by right, we, as a sign of mutual goodwill, will help them with an issue that is not our business, if it is in our power. But their ears to not hear these words, which are just. Tell me, does the United States have any influence over the Phalangists in Lebanon?

[ASSOCIATED PRESS] I dare say, yes sir. But this is strictly a humanitarian issue, and I think we should all help to get the hostages released, no matter who they are.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Can the United States exert pressure on the Phalangists in Lebanon, to free our hostages?

[ASSOCIATED RESSP] I am not a representative of the U.S. Government. I am a journalist and I feel pain for my colleagues who have been held hostage for so long.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I know that you are not their representatives, but you can ask the question. They claim that the United States is a free country. Do you agree that our hostages are also human beings, suffering just the same as the Americans?

[ASSOCIATED PRESS] Of course, that is what I said. The release of all the hostages.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Then you agree that our proposal is just a proposal, that both parts should endeavor to free all the hostages.

[ASSOCIATED PRESS] You are saying that you will only do something if the Iranian property is released by the United States. It seems as if you are asking for a ransom.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, we said two things. We said that we will help if they free our hostages. Is it wrong to ask for our property?

[ASSOCIATED PRESS] Of course not, but not as a condition for the release of the hostages. Do something for the release of the hostages, please.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If you reporters do your correct duty, meaning that when you see your government's wrongdoings, ask it to put a stop to it, then the situation will improve. Accept that your governments are bullies.

[Denmark's (?WEEKEND OBSERVER)] Mr Speaker, will the state control and foreign trade in this country increase or decrease, and, for clarification, will the edict of the death sentence against Mr Rushdie rest with the imam or is the call for Mr Rushdie's death the position of even the future government of Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding supervision of trade, the supervision will always be there. However, for a while now the government has granted more freedom, and this may increase even further in future. With regard to the Rushdie issue, his excellency the imam has passed a judgment, and there is no one in Iran who could act contrary to his excellency the imam, or would even want to do such.

[TIME] First, I would like to express my condolences. My question is: Will you have a running mate for vice president and if you do, do you have a specific person in mind?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, this is not like the U.S. presidential election. However, the president does have a need for many advisers.

[RESALAT] First, I would like to offer my condolences. Second, in view of the recent rumors disseminated by the mass media that following the leadership's demise the Islamic Republic of Iran would disintegrate, what is your opinion in this regard? In connection with the question raised by the AP correspondent, I would like to point out that we also want the release of Mr Kazem Akhaven from Lebanon.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the first question, the journalists themselves came here and saw everything themselves. They saw how practically the whole of Iran shed tears in mourning for the imam, and the loyalty toward the system was made clear to them. I specifically

ask reporters to note that there are those who during the imam's mourning joined the counterrevolutionaries and drank champagne in the Champs d'Elysee, the people's representative or those people whom you saw here. Well, this clearly indicates that the counterrevolutionaries and those who are not with the revolution hold no base in Iran. The Westerners are making the drastic mistake of investing in those who are so ignorant. They want to make plans for the Iranian nation there, and want to work for this nation, and are speaking on behalf of this nation. But you saw the way this nation mourned. During the entire mourning period of his excellency the imam not one incident occured in the whole of Iran that could have been in the interest of the counterrevolutionaries and the opposition to the system. This is a sign of extraordinary consolidation. Such consolidation cannot be seen in any other country. Regarding, Mr Akhavan, well, the gentlemen heard what you said.

[CUMHURIYET] Mr Speaker, I want to speak on behalf of all the journalists throughout the world and all the journalists here. If you are elected the president of this country with executive powers, will you be more respectful in the future to freedom of the press and the freedom of writers to express their opinion? We want to write with our own pen, not with the pens that are given to us by the statesmen.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] At present in Iran, nobody prevents anybody from writing whatever he pleases. If you listen to the statements in the Majlis that are broadcast by the radio you will see that the level of freedom here is such that cannot be tolerated in any other country; that you have been given pens here, at the entrance, to do you writing; that no restrictions are placed on what you write with that pen. If the gentlemen were cautious for the sake of security problems, that does not mean censorship. You can write everything with any pen. Of course, I do not agree with strict security now, but the officials here sometimes carry the duty to an extreme. And sometimes we question them. Now I say that, particularly in the case of journalists, such strict security arrangements are not needed very much.

[KEYHAN] With regard to the election of Ayatollah Khamene'i to the lofty position of leadership, what arrangements have been made for the implementation of the daily duties of the president of the Republic until the next elections? And will the decisions of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution, after approval by the leadership, be put to a referendum? Meanwhile, as an Iranian correspondent I can state that here there is freedom and there is no problem.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As to the daily duties of the president of the Republic, we think that for a short period, Mr Khamene'i can combine both duties, because the position of leadership has a small volume of executive affairs. Obviously, he must be helped because his responsibilities have increased. As to—what was your second question?

[KEYHAN] The issue of the Reappraisal Council.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The decisions of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution will be put to a referendum after they are drafted. As our Constitution has been approved through a referendum, then amendments to it will be through a referendum.

[Unidentified correspondent from Denmark] I understand you have been the acting commander in chief during the last year. Who has the role of supreme commander of the forces? If in future you are elected president, will you take on that role yourself?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] At present Mr Khamene'i is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. According to the Constitution, that responsibility has been entrusted to the leadership. And since at present he carries two responsibilities, by necessity I must help him. Therefore, at present I continue in this responsibility. Whether after the elections I can perform that responsibility [acting commander in chief] or not depends on the conditions at that time. Now it is not possible to pass any judgment.

[Tyler] Patrick Tyler, WASHINGTON POST correspondent. I thank you for your patience today. I would like to ask you a question concerning Iraq. Recently, senior officials of the Reagan administration suggested that Iraq is working on developing a nuclear weapons capability. As the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, how will Iran respond to a dedicated Iraqi effort to acquire nuclear weapons? Second, if I could add a quick question. Will your trip to Moscow include negotiations on arms purchases from the Soviet Union and could you address just in one word the confusion over whether Ayatollah [as heard] Khamene'i's election as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a temporary or permanent affair?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] He raised three questions. As to Iraq's being equipped with atomic weapons, that danger now threatens the entire region and is not confined to Iraq. Others, too, are seeking to develop such a capability. Those who have powers in the world must make efforts not to allow such an event to take place. If such countries lay their hands on atomic weapons, I believe that they could not be controlled. Those who have the power to do so, will do so.

As to purchases of weapons from the Soviet Union, even during the war, we concentrated our efforts on standing on our own feet. Our weapons policy is that we must rely on ourselves. Fortunately, the condition of our military industry is such that we have no need to buy weapons from others. That is our policy now.

As to the period of the leadership term of Ayatollah Khamene'i: When the Assembly of Experts approved his election, it did not announce that the decision was a temporary one. Once the Constitution is amended, if the new qualifications for the leader as specified in the

Constitution correspond with qualifications of Ayatollah Khamene'i—and it seems that they do correspond—then his term continues as it stands.

[INDIA TODAY] Since all the questions have been asked already, I will be asking about relations with India and in what fields these relations can expand. Will a multiparty system, as we have in India, come about in Iran in the future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our Constitution has envisaged a multiparty system. We have allowed it. The Majlis has passed the law; parties are being formed in Iran. We too we will have multiparty system.

As for relations with India, we wish to expand our ties with India. We have a major deal with the Indians to buy iron ore, but due to the war we could not transport the ores. Now that difficulty has been removed. Apparently, the obstacle in the way of expanded ties has been removed. We hope to expand ties.

[ETTELA'AT] What form and content will the use of Western technology and capital take during the reconstruction period? And with regard to the imam's stress on further strengthening the ties between Iran and the USSR which you raised, will the USSR have a special status and role in the reconstruction of the country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] On the West, we have not closed the path. It was the West's own bad policies that somewhat stopped it. If they come in a sound way to participate according to our conditions, then they can do so. As for the USSR: During our trip to that country, we prepared several major projects for reconstruction to be signed together and implemented.

[LA STAMPA] Sir, can we expect from the next president, you, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a general amnesty, a vast political amnesty to be announced in Iran? I have heard that at Evin there are many prisoners. How many? I do not know. Do you think that the secretary general of the Tudeh Party will be freed?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course amnesty is not in my power; it is the leadership that must decide. Meanwhile, now in our prisons there are few so-called political prisoners. Journalists can go to see. After the war, we freed those prisoners whom we thought should be amnestied, on the strength of his excellency's the imam's amnesty. Generally, as the country moves towards normalcy after the war, the way for those abroad to return will be better paved. And those who are at home will have easier conditions of amnesty.

[BBC] Does the Iranian Government have an initiative in mind to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan or not? During your forthcoming trip to the Soviet Union, do you expect that issue to be discussed? Do you expect that the position of the Soviet Union vis- a-vis this issue, namely that the Najibullah government should have a role in determining the future of Afghanistan, will change or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our policy in relation to Afghanistan is that the people of that country should manage their own affairs without the interference of foreigners. No one has the right to dictate anything to those people under the pretext that he has been helping the Afghans in the past. We would like Afghanistan to live in peaceful coexistence with all her neighbors, such as Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, India, and China. We will be maintaining this position when we are in the Soviet Union. It is up to the Afghan people themselves to decide if the present rulers should take part in the future state. If they accept it, then we will not oppose it either.

[Unidentified female American correspondent] I would like to pose a question on a personal matter. I personally enjoyed my trip to Iran during the last few days. My colleagues all feel the same, and feel that rumors are not a good method for compiling reports. Therefore, I and some of my colleagues would like our visa to stay in Iran to be extended. Would it be possible for you to ask the Foreign Ministry to renew our permits for a few days longer?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No trouble! I think this is a positive suggestion. We have always supported the presence of foreign reporters in Iran, and we continue to do so. Please take a note Mr (Sa'idi) [presumably Foreign Ministry official present] to allow those who want to remain for a bit longer to stay. Of course, this is my opinion, and we do not interfere in the authority of other officials. I am a parliamentarian, but the Islamic Guidance Ministry will make the necessary recommendations. By the way, it has become clear that the lady reporters are more persistent than the gentlemen reporters. [laughter]

[American correspondent] I would like you to notice that we are enjoying the same quality of work as our male colleagues, therefore we would like to have the same facilities at our disposal as they have.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Very well.

[Unidentified correspondent, speaking in Persian] One of the admonitions of his excellency the imam in his will was that in order to raise the educational level of students, some of them should be dispatched to those countries that are not colonialists or arrogant powers, as the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministries have done in the past. Will the number of these dispatches increase or will they stay the same? Another question: As you know, the global arrogance and the enemies of Islam are constantly intent on inflicting damage on this country. Will you please tell our nation how they can preserve themselves in the face of these conspiracies of global arrogance.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In connection with the dispatching of students, that depends on our financial resources. If we strengthen our foreign exchange resources, we will be interested in dispatching more students abroad and utilizing the scientific advances in the world. In response to the question of how we can preserve ourselves in the face of conspiracies, the best way is to ensure that we are vaccinated from within [as heard] to disappoint the greed of others.

Well, we hope that we will have another opportunity sometime, and that you will always be able to come and go freely. We hope that you were not too annoyed about any possible strictness that the officers may have shown by the door. Please consider it their right that they should be slightly more cautious these days. Goodbye.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon

LD1006103189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1415 GMT 9 Jun 89

[First Friday prayers sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani in Tehran on 9 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] My two sermons today are both based on current affairs. Today I am omitting the discourse on the issue of social justice which usually constitutes part of the first sermon. My first sermon is devoted to his excellency, the imam of the ummah, the illustrious founder of the Islamic Republic; and the second sermon is devoted to the issues of leadership and the specific issues pertaining to the management of the community.

The conditions prevailing over our society and the order we see in the atmosphere of our society are more telling than any sermon or article. They illustrate everything. The mood of the people serves to indicate that they have understood everything. Our elucidations and any other elucidation can in fact add nothing more to the people's existence than what the people have grasped from the position of his excellency the imam and believed in. Expressing condolences today is not an easy task. One who wishes to express his condolences should himself have some kind of consolation. [passage omitted] For this reason, I can not express my condolences to you. The imam belonged to all of us.

The points that should be specifically heeded in our speeches and the deliberations we delve into these days are those of the leadership, his excellency the imam's achievements in this revolution, and in the history of Islam, so they may be followed and held in deference, and so they are not forgotten or undermined. I will refer to a few points. When I thought about what significant point I should emphasize, I thought the most significant thing that was realized in the course of the revolution under the leadership of his excellency the imam and is still continuing—and which we should note in earnest—is that of the revolution which evolved in the state of Islam. What took place was that Islam reverted from an imposed alienation which had led Islam astray—they had diverted it from the mainstream of human societies, which is the greatest catastrophe in history, and the most diabolical action that has ever taken place in the world—to its rightful place. The fact that Islam has not yet fully reoccupied its possition is another matter which should be carried out in the continuation of the revolution. [passage omitted]

In this revolution in general there are also important chapters to which I will refer. However, that is the basis of the matter, and it is no small matter. In the history of Islam we do not have a shortage of religious revivialists. Gentlemen, those who are interested in history, can see that certain personalities have shown in historical periods and that they have given a new dignity to religion or to Islam in general; they have made a revival in a historical period, revived Islam from the point of view of certain dimensions. [passage omitted]

However, we do not have in history a revivalist in the form of the one we have now. They are revivalists in certain dimensions, but there is no revolution. This is a revolution. As to why this is a revolution, I will explain. Until our time there was never a concentrated, calculated, and planned effort, with ample resources, to drive Islam away from society. There were many times when Islam was driven away from society. Maybe from the time that his holiness the prophet passed away and then in the few years after the prophet when the people still had the signs of the prophet's presence in their houses, Islam was in the minds and the lives of the people. From then on they never allowed Islam to be present in society in its true form. However, the way they drove Islam away from Islamic societies in our time had never occured before. And it was not accidental; it was planned. Global blasphemy, in servitude to Western arrogance and in this century, with the considerable effort of the Marxists, plans, efforts, expenditures, and use of resources, has tried to drive all divine religions, Christianity, the Jewish religion, and other religions, especially Islam, away from the people's lives, to drive it to the fringe.

You know in Islam there are important dimensions. There are economic dimensions, cultural dimensions, political dimensions, and there are also devotional dimensions. They came and divided things. They said: let us drive Islam away from the point of view of politics, administration, economics, and culture. But from the devotional point of view—on the basis that they themselves interpreted devotion—let it remain in society. They knew that Islam could not be completely driven away because it is in human nature and human beings would not succumb to such a thing.

Therefore, they, with cunning and through their psychological means—it has a scientific basis, they have worked on it, it is not just a propaganda act—came and said:

Religion is a link between a human being and God. Each person can have a link with his own god. Even social devotions—although they accepted devotion—they did not include social devotion. [sentence as heard]

They tried to make the Ka'bah [holy shrine in Mecca] lose its position and make the pilgrimage disappear. They tried to keep the mosques and gatherings from playing their roles and tried to keep, as far as possible, gatherings in mosques from being large. And if there were gatherings, they tried to overshadow the philospohy of gathering and of Friday prayers. They did all this in a planned way. [passage omitted]

They considered their work to be finished. In other words, arrogance, both Eastern and Western blasphemy, were certain that Islam would never agian take its place as the administrator of society, as the basis of social life, because they believed they had trained several generations in that fashion. Schools, universities, newspapers, films, theaters, all that you can imagine had moved in that direction. This concentrated propaganda on several generations had, according to their calculations [words indistinct] the minds of people. They had gained a certain peace of mind.

The task was truly difficult; that is, that a person could raise a [word indistinct] after all the mischief that had been done, that he could return Islam to the lives of the people. The imam began that task. We have the right to judge that matter because we were with the imam from the first moment, from the moments when the seeds of this movement and revolution were being sown in the Qom seminary; we were witnesses to the thoughts of the imam, to the imam's mental imaginings and his wishes. Of course, his students were many; I am one of them.

The imam felt the weight of that great mission upon his shoulders. He had to begin the great task at a certain point and take it to another point. He mainly relied on divine assistance, because it would have been impossible to arrive at this point with normal calculations. It was very difficult for a person to imagine moving from the situation which we were in, say 20 or 25 years ago, to the situation which our society is in today. Our younger generation does not know those things, unfortunately. One cannot have all things in one's mind at all times, even those who were not there at that time.

The imam began that task and he succeeded. He succeeded magnificently. As you have heard about the prophet, I see the evidence of it in the imam himself; his eminence the imam of the ummah suffered a great deal on that road. In recent years, too, he suffered a great deal again on that same road, because the goal was important. His personality was extraordinary, but the goal was very great.

We know people who are older than he; his older brother, Ayatollah Pasandideh is several years older than the imam of the ummah, was much wealthier than he. We know both those gentlemen. We have been with them. The services for the people and spiritual pressures set him back from the point of view of physical health.

At any rate, he began that great task and certain things were at the service of his graciousness which brought about the realization of that great goal. I will go over them in a table of contents sort of fashion: first, his own talent. His students and his friends know how great the imam's talent was and how clever the imam was. It was a source of amazement to us. The things he did and the references he made, the words he chose and his understanding—when a subject was raised, he could read it to its end. When you mentioned A, he would understand until Z. He was truly like that. He is no longer alive now, but that is how we felt it to be. His talent was a talent which differed very much from ordinary people; very different from us, too, who were with him.

This is what persuaded people. It happened many times when an issue would be raised which, from our point of view, was not correct, or at least was not obvious. However, when he (?explained) it, we would become clear. Whoever asked him a question would become certain; with that certitude you would say to yourself, truly, this is correct, or in the end it would prove correct. I do not say this in an apocryphal manner. It was something special which—shall we say that God was responsible each time, no that was not the case—it was a great talent at any rate.

You now how great his faith was. He really had faith in his goals. He truly believed in Islam, in God, in the afterlife, in the final judgment. Well, all of you Muslims, all of us have faith and one is surprised when it is said that he had faith. Of course, he had faith. No, it is an important assertion. The Koran says: The prophet said—it is said about the prophet that the prophet attained faith. [Koranic verse] When that state of peace and certainty in one's heart that His Holiness Abraham sought—I should stress once again that I do not want to suggest that his graciousness should have the position of the prophets or of the imams, how should put it—among ordinary people, such a person stands out. He really had faith. And there is a great deal of difference between seeking something for the sake of something else or devoting one's entire existence to doing things with faith and belief.

There were times when he did not have faith. It would happen. He would accept it and some things would not work out [unha kharab shod]. An example was the issue of leadership which may come up in my second sermon; that is, he did not have faith that was correct, but circumstances forced him to accept it. In those instances in which things were a result of his own decision and his own faith, everything would turn out well. Those were the occasions when circumstances forced his graciousness to choose something on the basis of what was best. It would become a problem. He said specifically about this issue of leadership—there is a letter which I will now

read for you—he said: On that very day when the issue was raised in the Assembly of Experts, I did not agree with the requirement of the marja'iyat [sources of emulation] of the leadership. He has graciously written that. He used to say that to us before, but now he has written it so that it can be seen. That was another one of his unique characteristics. Well, that resistance, bravery, and everything else arose from that same source, from that faith, that talent, and so on. It is not necessary to stress those things again.

Of course, the groundwork [zamineh] was also important; that is, the fact that he graciously did that at an appropriate time is of importance. It is a natural thing. That is, in unsuitable circumstances, no matter how strong a person is, he would not be able to achieve anything. The fact that the prophets are chosen at a particular time requires certain groundwork. The fact that we are awaiting the appearance of the savior of humanity, the hidden imam, and we keep saying, why does he not come, is because it is a matter of groundwork. Without the groundwork, it is not possible. [passage omitted] Miracles are exceptions. God does not rule the world through exceptions. He rules the world in accordance with laws and regulations, and with unchanging traditions.

There were good grounds. The Qom theological seminary was a sea of pure, thirsty, ready, vigilant forces that were at his [Khomeyni's] service. At his lectures there were hundreds of students, during the struggling time of the Pahlavi regime there were so many of the students who were called (?zamen ol-Hadith), [the protectors of the tradition] which was taken from a tradition, lots of young theology students with some progressive Islamic movements. This is a new thing. You look at the last 100, 150 years, at what has happened in Egypt, in Iraq, in Africa in general, in Iran itself, in India, all across the world, there were great personalities, strugglers, self-sacraficing, religious and non-religious personalities who were working for the Islamic system, but they were limited in numbers.

They would light a flame in a place and they would be snuffed out. But these flames became greater and they lit the way for the imam. The recognition of these grounds is also one of the particulars of the management and the leadership. The leadership recognizes that the grounds are prepared for this slogan to be chanted and to put forward this demand. The imam discovered these grounds and recognized them. So he appeared in this manner and progressed with such speed. His achievement was unique and extraordinary.

The main issue here was the imam's knowledge. The imam was indeed knowledgeable. Even his opponents did not deny the depth of his knowledge and wisdom. As I mentioned, he had capabilities and was educated too.

There were three parts to the imam's life. One ne period was his education period, which was a very happappy and hard working period, and continues up to the timime when His Excellency Ayatollah Borujerdi came to Qo Qom and the marja'iyat was concentrated in Qom. He entemtered Ayatollah Borujerdi's establishment, but his high igh ambitions and the conditions which surrounded the the marja'iyat required him to compromise, but he was not pot prepared to do this. He was rebellious and had a sincere pre personality. He could not accept anything other than the the right and relaxed nature of things.

Of course these issues do not relate to Ayatoyatollah Borujerdi himself. In any case a management estestablishment has some problem surrounding it. He could ld not remain indifferent to these problems and retreated ed to his residence. His second period was the period of hof his retreat.

I think that this period of retreat was very ery effective in forming the imam's personality. He had totatotal vision as far as wisdom, information, and having a livlively personality is concerned. His retreats became so some of his constructive times, from around 1946-47, up tp to 1958-59, which is some 15, or 10-12 years. I think these ese were some of the important times when our present socisociety's foundations were formed.

In that period of retreat he experienced the secseclusion that Abraham and all other prophets experienceced in their time. Usually our prophets have had some me period of seclusion in their time if we look at their liv lives. These periods of seclusion have been the time whenhen they have had to think of their God, the particular issuesues concerning them, and in order to enrich themselves. es.

The real wisdom and information and ma management enrichments are not possible without reareal internal enrichment. This particular quality of leadershership personality was attained probably during this periodiod of retreat. We understood this period, but we did not ut understand his active period. Even during the retreat at period we understood only to the limitations of the lectuctures we had with him.

We were attracted to him, as Hojjat-ol Eslaslam Taheri mentioned. This was a time when anyone ne who was unsteady and who was not diverted was attraracted to the imam when he came near him just like a magagnet.

Some very good people were attracted to him m because of his attraction. This was a period when he ga gave ethical lectures and other things. We did not understerstand that period.

Then with such personality he entered the scescenes of the struggle, which is the period of his struggle m most of you are familiar with, and which the youth also he heard about later on.

It was during 1962 that the struggle started, and these grounds, his personality, and the pure nature of his existance were the issues that speeded events. There are only a few cases in history where a revolution lasting 17 years in conditions like Iran's comes to some results, become victorious, reaches its first stage of the intended goals, and achieves the first stage which is the holding of the government. During 1962 he started, and by 1978 one stage of the work as completed.

The last 10 years of his life, during the administration of the revolution, was another divine bounty; even with his advanced age and despite all the hardships which he had experienced during the struggle and exile, God bestowed upon him a great physical stamina and gave him the capability of administering the affairs of the country. He solved a majority of necessary issues during the revolution.

Here, one should look at some other dimensions of the revolution. He was a source of emulation [marja'], greater than all the other maraje' [plural form of marja']. He was a divine [Muslim cleric] who had graduated from the Qom religious seminary and other religious seminaries. The ideas which he discussed during this period were based on his personal knowledge. This by itself is another revolutionary thesis. I will refer to some of them, but it needs a concentrated effort if we wish to enumerate all of them. Those who wish to collect the works of the imam should follow up these points, should find the patterns, and use them as models. [passage omitted]

From the day that the people came to know of the imam, and those who were working with the imam, all regarded themselves as masters of the revolution. They saw the imam as their own conscience, as their own voice. This is very important.

The last issue was the issue of the presence of the people on the scene, which you also witnessed on the occasion of his passing. Global arrogance attached a great deal of hope to this day. They said many times—hundreds of times, millions of times—we will wait, for as long at this imam is alive we cannot do anything. We leave everything for after his departure. Anyone who had a plan waited for an opportunity. There were very few people outside who could judge that the situation would continue as before after the imam. They had all prepared themselves, and from their deeds we understood this; we have a lot of evidence that I will not mention here.

When they saw one of the appropriate initiatives of the Islamic Guidance Ministry, which invited foreign correspondents at this juncture, this was the first shock for global arrogance. They thought that after the imam's demise, borders would be closed, everything would be hidden, and the public would be deprived of their freedom until the authorities had taken charge of affairs.

However, the doors were suddenly opened to all these reporters, whom we considered to be outsiders and unsympathetic, to come in. We said: Anyone who wishes can come in. This was their first shock. They thought: See how much self-confidence they have. See how sure they are to invite foreign reporters at this juncture. They came and saw hope. They came, and despite all their grudges, programs, even if they had come for espionage work or destruction, they were impressed. Even if a stone had come to Mosalla and had witnessed how the people were behaving around the imam's holy coffin, the stone would have been impressed! Even a mountain would have been shaken.

I am certain that this Alborz [mountain range north of Tehran] has humbly recorded these events in its heart, but of course we do not understand how such object can record events. Whatever their motive, these reporters were impressed. When they saw the people's enthusiam and saw that they were crying from the bottom of their hearts and had forgotten themselves, and when they saw that here the earth was crying, the sky was crying, trees were crying, walls and doors were crying ,and no one but the imam could influence their hearts, these events left an impression. The reports they dispatched were the minimum one could dispatch under the circumstances. What else could one say? they would have had to say something even if they were made of stone. [passage omitted]

When the correspondents witnessed the events and communicated some of what they saw to the world, the world was confused. They are truly confused, because they had previously been saturated with such reports that the people of Iran are unhappy, they are suffering from price rises, long lines, losing their children in the war, and other problems of the world. Everyone expected that something else would happen [after the imam's death]. This is only one new example of events we mention here. If we go back to the past it was the same. The war was managed in the same way. Even on the last day of the war, when the imam uttered one word, suddenly 500,000 to 600,000 volunteers rushed to the front; and they were pleading with the imam to allow them to inflict one last blow [on Iraq], but the imam, on the basis of his own decision and calculations, did not permit this. That was another example of the war scene. Whenever there was a need and the imam raised a finger, this tumultuous sea sent waves to do their job. In line with this response, the people would ensure that there were no shortages after marches once or twice a year. [passage omitted]

His holiness the imam, in connec n with jurisprudence, raised some highly significant issues in the last days and solved several complex problems which we were facing in passing laws and running society. His holiness, with his deep understanding, solved these problems in a way that prevented a reaction from the deviated and ossified minds, some of whom might oppose an issue with good intentions.

One of the remarks which he made was regarding the issue of ejtehad [the right to pass religious judgment]. If those remarks were made by a university professor, by a

psychologist, or by a sociologist that would not be important. However in the case of Khomeyni, it is important because he said this after spending his life with religious scholars, jurisprudents, and mojtahed; and his own status required him to pass judgment on this issue. What he said about ejtehad—and in my second sermon I may also refer to it—he was preparing the stage for the period after his death, and we were not aware of it. He said that the ejtehad, as it is known in the religious seminaries—and remember that he is one such mojtahed and he did not wish to undermine his own position—we have many illustrious 'ulema and foquha [jurisconsults]. In his will and testament that we read, see how much emphasis he has placed on traditional jurisprudence. Right to the end of his life, he always emphasized the importance of traditional jurisprudence.

However, that ejtehad which wishes to administer society. He differentiated between the ejtehad which is involved with politics and society and the other ejtehad which is only in the margins of society and which only follows its traditional route. This work by a marja' taqlid [supreme source of emulation] is a great and revolutionary act which requires courage, understanding, as well as calculating where it will lead to. This is what he did and he opened a new path for us to follow.

He expressed his views on taxation, where we were faced with difficulties, and his views on ta'zirat [religious punishment] which had developed into another difficulty in the course of our legislation and in the administration of the country, which he solved. Now, allow me to refrain from going into details, because you know the details yourselves.

Due to his characteristics, the imam was able to understand the necessary issues and to express them to us as was necessary, and he strengthened the foundations of this revolution. Now, the most important task is to strengthen the foundations of this revolution which he has so firmly laid. In our mournings and in our eulogies we have rightly said—that we have nothing left, that nothing is left after him. This is of course true. When we compare ourselves to him, we see that we have lost everything—we have lost our spirit, we have lost our souls, we have lost our joy, we have lost so many things. However, what is important is what he left to us, which is again from him, not from us; and that is the correct order which he strengthened. He has brought the people upon the stage; has brought the committed clergy upon the stage; he has shattered the glory of the world arrogance, revealed the weaknesses of the world arrogance, revealed their contradictions, inspired people with courage, removed the fear that people had regarding world arrogance, thinking that they were demons who could destroy everything anytime they roared. He has changed all the basic work, and that is which is left to us from him. We still possess this valuable legacy and this is the inheritance of leadership for the present and future conditions, which can make up for all the calamity which has been inflicted upon us.

Here, alongside the very minute details which I mentioned regarding his life, I also regard it befitting to thank his illustrious son, our dear brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Ahmad Aqa Khomeyni for all his efforts in this connection. The imam was only one person, and you know that he did not possess any staff, or an extensive staff, for the adminstration of this society. There were a very limited number of clerics and non-clerics in his house who were responsible for various functions; one took care of the religious donations which were sent to the imam, another one answered religious queries, another one answered people's letters. Each one had his own responsibility. However, as regards consultations and assisting in decisions—please regard me as a good witness because I was present and aware of some intimate details—I should honestly say that Mr Ahmad Aqa was very effective during that period. The 'ulema know that in the households of the maraje', the running of the households of the maraje', and ensuring that there will be no difficulties or deficiencies, has always been and will continue to be among the difficulties of our lives. There are no special regulations, and the people keep coming and going. Of course, good people come, but that type of administration has its own difficulties. Within the household of his holiness the imam, despite all that power, all that wealth, and all the greatness which existed there, and despite the onrush of people from different classes and strata, if that household remained so healthy and so active we should have done an injustice to history if we do not say who played the main role in running it.

I believe that Mr Haj Ahmad Aqa played a very important role. One of the reasons why the imam did not allow Ahmad Aqa to accept an official position was that he was needed at home. When Ahmad Aqa went on a trip, even for 1 day, our hearts trembled lest there may be some problems which might lead to an incident. You do not know what he did in order to protect and safeguard the imam, and for the health of the imam. Details may one day be revealed that during the few years when the heart of his holiness the imam was weak and was faced with difficulties, the doctors controlled the heart of the imam on a continuous basis, lest heart pressure may drop and that it may face disruption. Sometimes the imam would walk in the garden; right there the doctors would go to him asking him to stop and to sit down, because they controlled his heart constantly.

Now these are small details which should be gradually told. Ahmad Khomeyni truly helped a great deal, both in maintaining the health of the imam, in administering the issues in his household, in his good advice which he used to offer, and in assisting with decisions. No one has so far mentioned the right that he has. Under the shadow of the greatness of his holiness the imam no one else deserved such respect in his household. It is natural that it should be so. However, history should record this right and our nation should be appreciative.

Here, I should also add that Ahmad Khomeyni has sent a message and I, on behalf of the illustrious household of

the imam and he personally, thank the people for all their sentiments and all their kindness. Of course, the people regard themselves as the bereaved and all of them feel so independently. Nevertheless, he has requested that from tomorrow, when the holidays will be over, work should start again. It is possible that many people, as a result of their psychological state, may not wish to work, but this is not in keeping with the wishes of the imam. The imam would not be pleased to see that the wheels would not turn. He knew the value of work, he is certainly watching us, and he knows that difficulties may arise fo our people and our society. Starting tomorrow work should resume again; but, of course, we cannot so easily forget our mourning. We are forced to do so and act according to the order which has been given and the request which has been made. God willing, you will accept it.

The night after tomorrow [11 June] will be the memorial meeting a week after [Khomeyni's death], and it will be held at the sacred grave of the imam by the household of the imam, by Haj Ahmad Aqa himself. Our presence there is of great importance.

He has sent another message, and this is the message of us too, as well as the wish of the people themselves—people have requested it from him and he has announced—that we build the shrine of the imam. On the basis of the relations which the imam had with the public, we feel that the imam would want his shrine to be built by the people and that it should be built with the money which the people themselves pay voluntarily for the building of that shrine. Of course, even if all the government capabilities and public money are used for its construction it would be the best use, because that place will be the center of guidance, of light, of illumination, and the center for the solace of hearts and many other blessings. We should enrich our history in the future from that shrine. There would be no problem if we use government funds to pay for anything which is necessary. However, it would be preferable for that shrine to be built by the people. Ahmad Khomeyni has also opened an account and has announced or will announce it. Everyone can contribute anything, little or large, whatever they can, so that, God will, that shrine is built in a manner which befits the leader of the revolution.

Second Sermon

LD0906225389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1511 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 9 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Koranic verses omitted] Our next point deals with current issues, particularly the issue of leadership which is the most important issue of the system. Thank God it has been organized. There is no doubt that considering our Constitution and our religion a religious society cannot have the desired and appropriate form without a leader. In our current circumstances the legitimacy of the system stems from the leader, a just jurisprudent selected by the people and to whom the people have sworn their allegiance. If we intervene in public life, it is only justifiable with the permission of the leader. As you know, according to the Constitution, the position of the leader has been determined, and we have it in the form of the rule of the jurisconsult [velayat-ye faqih] who has responsibilities and powers.

The passing away of his holiness the imam, given the conditions in our society, the resignation of the deputy leader [Montazeri], the absence of a deputy for the imam, and the presence of a weak point in the Constitution in which no such situation is envisaged, was one of the most important issues that kept our minds busy and concerned during the illness of his holiness the imam. There were only a few days from the time when we realized and were informed that his holiness the imam was in a critical condition until the moment when he could no longer help us with current issues. There was no time for doing things. However, he had invisibly prepared the ground to some extent by directing the issue of the leadership toward a specific path; he had ordered the correction of the Constitution and had laid the groundwork through other means.

Once I realized that the imam's condition was critical I remembered that in the days when we were discussing the position of the deputy leader with him there was a very excited session at which friends suggested patience. He looked at the people present in a concerned way and said: I do not see myself living much longer and consider it my duty to resolve the issue. I know what will happen after me if I do not do this now. Do not ask me to do something for which I cannot answer to God.

We did not take this very seriously at the time, but it was only a short time later that we realized he had felt something about his own passing away. Those days were very difficult for us. God knows that on the one side we had our eyes on Jamaran [Khomeyni's residence], while on the other our heavy responsibilities to society, the future conditions, the current affairs of the country, dangers predicted by our enemies, and other issues that can occur in this society as a result of the lack of a leader were keeping us very busy.

On the last day the danger was serious for us. The doctors were giving us hope, but Haj Ahmad Aqa told me that he knew the imam's condition better than anyone because he had been at his bedside and was very concerned. He told me to tell the gentlemen revising the Constitution to finish the job as quickly as possible so that it is concluded during the imam's lifetime.

We then had a session with the members of the reappraisal council in the president's office and decided to leave everything else aside until the work was done. We finished that meeting at 1400 and decided that the first meeting should start at 1530. It was around 1530 when

everyone was arriving for the meeting that I received a telephone call from the imam's residence, telling me to go there immediately, and saying that the heads of all the other branches had also been called. I felt that something was breaking and went there.

When I arrived there the imam was in the last moments of his natural life. I remember that Mr Ardabili, the prime minister, and the respected leader [Khamene'i] were there. We were by the bedside. His excellency opened his eyes for a moment and looked at the sky [as heard], after which there was nothing left that we could count on. After that the doctors tried to start the heart again with electric shocks and the lungs with resuscitation. They told us that the condition could last from 24 to 48 hours.

That was the time to think about society. It was very difficult not to be by the bedside. However, there was no choice, those with responsibility gathered in a hospital room to make decisions on the situation. We had problems on our borders, the war was not yet finished, there were issues of security, methods of administering society in the days when we knew there would be a complete shutdown, and we had to decide on issues of transportation, and the general life of the population.

We summoned the [Assembly of] Experts. Our first duty was to summon the Experts. The absence of leading 'ulema in various cities at the time this event happened would have been one of the difficulties. At any rate, these 'ulema, Friday prayers and religious figures are the spiritual solace of the people and they should be in their own regions. We summoned all these gentlemen by telephone and told them to get here by the morning. It took some time to find them all and to summon them.

We were drawing up an agenda for the Assembly of Experts when, while we were busy talking, suddenly we heard the sound of wailing and crying from inside the hospital and places nearby. Well, it was clear that everything was over, but our plans were still defective. We had a serious problem. I am mentioning this in view of the point which I wish to make later. It would have been a major problem if the news of the passing of our illustrious imam had been conveyed to the people like a wave at 1020 at night as the result of this wailing; we did not know what would happen while we were still unprepared. It was truly a difficut matter: Either we had to announce it immediately at that moment—but that announcement could have led to unpleasant consequences—or we would have had to wait till the following day or the day after so that we had a few hours at our disposal for making plans, for convening the Assembly of Experts. However, it was not easy to silence that wailing. Those who were gathered there, the doctors, the staff, the relatives, and the 'ulema who were there, all were shouting with all their being. It was not an easy thing to ask these people who were baring their hearts in that way to remain silent. However, with the hardness which exists in me, I accepted that responsibility. But no matter how often we asked the gentlemen who were in charge of finding a solution to keep quiet, we did not receive a positive response.

The interesting thing for me was that I went to the women from the imam's household who were also crying and wailing in a corner. I raised the issue with them. They were the first people to become quiet. I told them that the imam of the ummah would not be pleased if, as soon as he is no longer with us, the society which he created would be faced with difficulties, and that the interest of the system would require us to remain patient and keep quiet. I felt an extraordinary quality of greatness in that household, among people who were more grief-stricken than others and who were justified in wanting to cry with all their being. And yet they said: This is correct, we will remain patient. When they became quiet, the others could not do anything else, and they also kept quiet. Immediately, they also silenced the area outside the house, in the name of reciting prayers for the sick [tavassol]. As those outside the house did not realize properly what had happened, they were asked to chant prayers for the imam's recovery.

At first, we decided not to announce it the following day either, until the Experts arrived and until we could choose the leadership, and to announce it the following day when the experts had returned home. But our friends said: No, the people have a right and we cannot hide this issue from the public for more than a few hours. And so we agreed to do this and to follow the program which you know. God knows how those who were there spent those 7 or 8 hours. Imagine a person whose entire being tells him to cry, but he does not cry and remains patient. That condition was the hardest condition in my life, both because I had gone to others and asked them not to cry, and during those few hours I saw that the whole world, all of Iran, and all Muslims have a different feeling and there were only the few of us who felt we had a hornet's nest inside ourselves which pained us from within, and yet we could not cry. Certainly all of those who were there also felt the same. In any case, I regard that night as the hardest night in my entire life, and it may be the same for others who did not allow themselves to cry.

The Assembly of Experts was convened. The 'ulema came at great speed. Certainly they realized what had happened. They guessed what the issue was. The reading of the imam's will solved many problems. Of course, the issues which were mentioned in the imam's will we had repeatedly heard from his mouth. However, the effect of those words on that day was much greater than what we had heard in the past. Whenever we found a chance to listen when it was being read, they shook our brain like a hammer and illuminated our heart. If the reading of that will had no other benefit, it played a great role in solving the problems of the country by creating a climate of blessing and a psychological condition in everyone so that decisions were made wisely and free from personal

ambitions and passions. However, it is a great treasure which will remain as the most important historical document in our revolution.

We started the meeting of the experts from the evening, from the afternoon, and our discussion concerning the leadership so that we could achieve results. Here, let me tell you, dear ummah, that as someone who worked there it is absolutely clear to me that divine guidance and unseen assistance guided us to that correct position. I personally am certain of this. This is how I feel. If one could in some way make video recordings of these divine issues, we should have done so. I do not know with what eye one can see them. However, this is how it seemed to me.

There was no arrangement concerning what has taken place so far and the leader who has been chosen. Not in the previous year, nor in the previous days, nor that morning, nor in the meeting of the management board of the Assembly of Experts, nowhere had we come to the conclusion that the leadership should be in the form that has now been decided. Our dear leader, who was also among us when we were discussing it, he himself did not vote on this form. One view was that there should be a council. We, too, in our previous discussions said that in the short term there should be a council so that we could see what would happen later. We had even had discussions about the members of the council. If someday the discussions of the Experts are published, you will see that the discussions were revolving mainly around a council and members of the council.

It is interesting that our dear leader himself did not vote for a council. I did not vote for a council, [Hashemi-Rafsanjani corrects himself] I, we voted for a council, we did not vote for an individual. When [the choice of] an individual was raised, we did not vote for it, because our previous view was to go for a council for the time being, until we could solve our problems later. Those issues and the atmosphere of the meeting brought the situation to this.

Now I want to talk about those issues. Most of the issues were resolved by the imam. Here I must sincerely say—I have said it in the previous sermon too—I must confess that we did not understand the imam's decisions at the level at which he prepared them. In his style he did not wish to establish that a leader appoints his successor. He did not want this to happen, and it is not right. But he had some views, and it is everyone's right to express his views. They have also been published in one way or another. He mentioned his views to us on various occasions. Let us look at them.

The serious parts of my discussions begin here. Now the U.S., British, and other radios have begun to create doubts in people. They even mentioned today that the rule of the jurisconsult, which was the main philosophy of the Iranian Government, is now ended. Now they interpret that rule of the jurisconsult no longer exists and something else has come. They want to put these words into certain people's mouths so they say the same.

I must mention a major case. You will see what a lie it is. Just as with their previous works, they usually know where to strike. My explanation will prove that, no, there is still the same rule of the jurisconsult with the same religious ingredients.

There was one point in our previous Constitution that said among the appropriate sources those who have the capability for the leadership or marja'iyat [quality of being a source of emulation]. When I say or it is because there are two views about the interpretations of that. Is the practical marja'iyat necessary or only the capabilities for the leadership? In a previous appointment when we chose the succession to the leadership, the Experts voted that it is only the person that has the capability of marja'iyat and not of possessing marja'iyat. At that time our successor to the leader had no marja'iyat. All approved of the capability and then we voted on that. In any case that was the viewpoint of the Experts. But the capability of marja'iyat was that.

In private discussions the imam had told us that marja'iyat is not appropriate to be in the law. But he did not announce that. That was what we knew; this was his view. The last word he said to me was that the conditions of marja'iyat and the leadership in a system in this dimension do not correspond to each other. They are two different issues. You do not mention this when talking about the Islamic Constitution. It was in the private talks, and maybe he said the same thing to others at that time.

But he did write a letter. The basis for our choice of leadership is mainly the documents signed by the imam, the present Constitution, and the religious laws. Now all three issues exist in our present leadership.

Look at this letter by the imam. Of course, it has been published. But it has to come in the Friday sermon and in my discussions. The letter is written to Ayatollah Meshkini, president of the Assembly of Experts and president of the Reappraisal Council. The letter is dated 29 April 1989, that was the beginning of the review, [Hashemi-Rafsanjani corrects himself] no, at the beginning of the review when we started, we had some questions and we started on 24 April. The question came to us, we asked him, and he gave this reply:

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani reads Khomeyni's letter] His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed 'Ali Meshkini, may your blessings continue. Greetings. You have asked me to state my views on the addendum to the Constitution. Whatever the gentlemen deem to be in the interest of the regime then they may act accordingly. I will not interfere.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] That was the imam's style. When he used to assign a responsibility to anybody he would then tell him to enforce his own views. When asked for is views if necessary he would do so, and sometimes if he sensed that his view might inhibit the others he would not give any views. Only in the case of leadership does he say something. These words carry an important notion.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] We cannot let our Islamic regime to on without a supervisor.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] That is, there cannot be a vacuum of leadership.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] You must elect an individual...

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] The word individual: We who were familiar with his taste knew that he had some specific point to make by mentioning the word individual. However, we never used to raise that point as a document to say that since the imam has chosen to say individual then [the leader] should be an individual [rather than a council]. In any case the imam's view was clear—that in the final analysis the leadership should be entrusted to an individual.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter]...who can defend our Islamic honor in the world of politics and deceit. Since the very beginning I was of the opinion and I insisted that the condition of marja'iyat is not necessary. [Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] This refers to the period when the first Constitution was being debated. Ayatollah Ardabili, too, told us about it in our meeting prior to these affairs. I had not heard earlier from others. He was the first to say that at that time the imam was opposed to the marja'iyat being made a condition, but since the Assembly of Experts was intent on making that condition, the imam said: All right, let it be so.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] Since the beginning I was of the opinion and I insisted that the condition of marja'iyat is not necessary. The just mojtahed [theologian] who is confirmed by the honorable experts of all the country will be sufficient.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] The interpretation that he wanted of us was this—mojtahed and just. He gives more explanation. He himself explained how such a person could be the guardian, how he could be a jurisconsult guardian. First, I beg to say that the term mojtahed is interchangable with the term faqih [jurisconsult]. Please may the gentlemen not come one day to say, in the manner of the laity, that he is therefore no longer jurisconsult guardian. Faqih is the same as mojtahed—in the sense that he is a mojtahed and and faqih. We have mojtahed in all sciences but the term we now talk about is the mojtahed in theological sciences.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] If the people voted the Experts to appoint a just mojtahed as the leader of their government and when they [the Experts] appointed an individual to take over the leadership, of necessity he is acceptable to the people.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] That is, pledge of allegiance [bey'at]. That is, the people have voted to elect the Experts; the Experts, on behalf of the people, vote to elect a mojtahed and theirs is deputation on behalf of the people. It means that the people have pledged allegiance, in the same way in which ministers and others are elected.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] In such a case he becomes the elected vali [protector] of the people.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] Here the term vali is used. He is a mojtahed and the term is used here as well.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] And his edict is enforceable.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] This term is very important. His edict is enforceable means that the mojtahed who has been placed at the top and to whom the people have pledged allegiance, for whom the experts have cast their votes, and in case he has the conditions of ejtehad [one having the right to pass religious judgment] and justice, then others are [religiously] bound to obey his edicts, including even the foquha [jurisconsults—plural form of faqih]. Then henceforth they had better not drum it into you to say to you: Oh well, what are the marja'iyat [sources of emulation] to obey? Other mojtahed are bound to obey. If he issues an edict, if the leader we have chosen issues an edict, his edict is binding. This is the view of all. Well, some may not have that view, but the view of the majority of the faqihs is this. It is also the view of his excellency the imam, who said so.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] In the beginning of the Constitution I used to say so. But friends insisted on laying down the conditions of marja'iyat. Then I too agreed. But at that time I knew.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani comments] It relates to the debate when I spoke in the first sermon about his foresight.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani resumes reading letter] I knew at that time that in future, in a not-distant future, it cannot be implemented. I wish for the success of the gentlemen from the almighty God. God's blessings and greeting. [Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni. [crowd chants]

At this stage there are grounds for a fundamental discussion. However, I do not wish to go into it in this sermon; other 'ulema should debate it. The point is the issue of leadership and the source of emulation, and this can be two different people. It is clear that within the system we

should put the priority on leadership, that is the leadership of the jurisconsult. If we wish to have the correct source of emulation in the society, it is possible when there is an appropriate system and leadership. If the system becomes idolatrous, then the sources of emulation become the same and have no further scope. If that were the case, then the Voice and Vision would become as before, as would the beaches, the cabarets and bars, treachery, injustices, and oppression. There were sources [of emulation] then, there was a time we had a source such as Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi who was the greatest clerical power of recent history. What could he do in the face of the government's power, despite the fact that the government was weak? The shah had only recently come into power and had thousands of problems. The fundamental issue is that we must pay serious attention to the leadership and that the sources of emulation should conform itself to the leadership. Any edict of the leadership must be valued in issues that are national issues. This must be the case. [crowd chants]

This is the basis of the work of the Assembly of Experts on the basis of the opinion of the imam, which meant they removed the condition of being the sources of emulation. The minimum in the Constitution included being an appropriate individual for a source of emulation. We have forgone this even though the elected mojtahed [Khamene'i] satisfies that condition. This is something for another discussion and when some time has passed we can discuss it further. It needs someone strong like the imam to explain such issues appropriately; it is not our job.

The second issue was [word indistinct]. We have plenty of mojtaheds; there are many just mojtaheds in the Assembly of Experts; the condition for being a member is to be a mojtahed. The condition for membership is ejtehad, that is, only those can join whose ejtehad has already been determined.

We have plenty of just mojtaheds. There are a number of requirements. There are conditions in ejtehad. There are some gentlemen who have done much work in all aspects of theology, they are teaching, responding to religious questions, are aware and can easily recall various edicts. There are others who are not the same. Religiously, they are at the same position but do not have the same level of recall. Any skill is like this, they have other work. Abilities are not uniform and they vary. We do not have a grain of doubt that the leader that we have selected is a mojtahed. I am not speaking on behalf of others who have in any case voted for him. I, as a witness, tell you that I have known him since 1959, in lessons, in discussions and debates, and many of those who are ayatollahs among us right now—I will explain this position further as well—have no doubt about his ejtehad. In any debate, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i was at least their equal. He understood the lessons very well and debated very well and, up to very recently, despite the fact that he was involved with the struggle, he would not forget his thinking, his lessons, and research.

Another meaning of ejtehad that was made the subject of this sermon by the imam's words is that mojtahed needs some information and understanding for this task in theology. In some parts of theology, those who are in seminaries are stronger, while in others those who are involved with the administration affairs can make decisions more quickly. The mojtahed in the seminary who does not know anything about the issues of the country cannot as easily issue an edict about shortcomings in banking—and there is plenty of them—as one who is responsible in administration. [passage omitted]

Therefore, when we are talking about ejtehad, then who is more appropriate, the one who is more familiar with social, economic, cultural, foreign policy, and the fundamental issues of the system or the one who is in the seminary and whose basic knowledge is equal or even greater but is not familiar with these issues? Naturally, logic indicates that there are advantages on one side here. Maybe when the imam said recently that the ejtehad that is the norm in the seminaries is not the type that we currently need in action, points this out. Maybe he was preparing the groundwork for this time since he felt that soon someone should come and undertake the rule of the jurisconsult who needs to understand such issues. Naturally, if we are to do the right thing, those who are mojtahed and want to be a source of emulation must have advisers in each of these aspects. It is not possible for an individual to give views on all these aspects which requires a wealth of scientifice and legal knowledge. For any one of these he will have to have experts, councils that he refers to, and once they have prepared the grounds, he as the mojtahed, would select the appropriate path. We have not yet reached this position which we may in the course of the future leadership.

As far as the condition of proof is concerned—and here I am only stating my own opinion of this type of ejtehad, other members of the Experts have had their own analysis not necessarily similar to mine—the imam had already given his guidance in this respect. We had already absorbed this unaware, and after the event when we pondered we realized that the imam had told us everything. I shall note them one by one.

As far as our dear brother, our new eminent leader is concerned, we repeatedly debated with the imam over the issue of the deputy leadership because we were not wise enough and could not accept his decision. In one session, the heads of the three branches, Ayatollah Ardabili, myself, the prime minister, Haj Ahmad Aqa, and our present leader, the five of us were present. A discussion ensued and we said to the imam that if this happens we will have difficulties because with the present Constitution we could have a leadership vacuum. He said that this would not be the case since we have the right people. When we asked who, he pointed to Mr Khamene'i. [crowd chants]

This happened a few months back in his residence when there was the issue of the trial of that gang [not further specified]. It was then that he had decided to solve the question of the leadership and that is when we were debating the matter. Following that session, Mr Khamene'i asked us, insisted, that we do not talk about this issue outside. We did not repeat it anywhere. Recently, more debate started. I went to his highness the imam privately because I could speak more openly over the question of the deputy leadership and its problems and this time he told me clearly that we would not have any problems because we had such an individual among us and we should be aware of it. This is what happened then. Haj Ahmad Aqa also said that while Khamene'i was in Korea and the imam saw him on television, his contacts, speeches, and discussions, it was very interesting for the imam who had said that he is truly worthy of the leadership. This is what we have heard. [passage omitted]

When the debate was held in the council and we discussed the question of having a council or an individual, the majority voted for the individual rather than the council. When we started looking for individuals, a number were discussed but he received a very large majority, a very justified vote. The point that is very important to us is his familiarity with national issues. This is far more important than all the other conditions such as the struggle, knowledge, justness, and others because for 10 to 12 years he has been involved with national issues. He notes the details of national issues right now. If we selected a leader from a seminary, by the time he became familiar with national issues, the war, Armed Forces, Guards, economy, banking, universities, the law, we would have suffered for some time and maybe we would have suffered irreparable harm. He knows all of these. This is the meaning of leadership, someone who is able to offer opinions and determine policy based on his knowledge. There is also the revolutionary issue. Many of our religious leaders are dear and popular to us but there are differences. [passage omitted]

As far as the Constitution is concerned, the only point anyone may raise is that we have removed the condition of being the source of emulation, but during the course of the revolution, based on the imam's permission, we ignored parts of the Constitution. It is not something new. We all accept that the position of the leader is above the Constitution. We accepted it during the reign of the imam and acted accordingly. Given that, therefore, there is no doubt. Do not allow anyone to raise any doubt among you. This is logical and based on the shari'ah and God willing we shall reap its auspicious benefits. The most important thing is that we amazed the world with the speed of our action. [crowd chants]

Such things that they were talking about and continue to talk about such as a power struggle and disagreements, their propaganda, was suddenly proved false. Their division into radicals, moderates, this gang and that disagreement was proved worthless since the world saw that when the Islamic Republic is in need of a decision, we all get together and with the biggest vote make the appropriate decision—people, revolutionary organizations, the seminaries, and clergy all support it. In addition to its appropriate contents, this maneuver in itself is very valuable for disappointing our enemies and for boosting the morale of this Hezbollah people and raising their hopes in the future. This is one of the greatest fruits resulting from the guidance of his highness the imam who has left it for us. We pray that God gives us the chance to obey him and to give him the chance to carry the heavy burden of responsibility that has been given him in the way that is appropriate for revolutionary Islam, for which he has all the desired abilities. [passage omitted]

Majlis Session Rescheduled for 12 Jun

LD1006080789 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—The Majlis will hold it open session on Monday morning instead of Sunday, the seventh day of the late imam's demise to be marked with special commemoratice ceremonies.

A statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Majlis today said the measure is taken to enable the deputies attend the ceremony at the imam's shrine at Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

Meanwhile the Majlis has called on the public to attend the ceremony and once again renew their allegiance to the soul and aspirations of the imam.

In a similar development it was announced Saturday that the Tehran Bazaar will be closed Sunday and businessmen will hold a special ceremony at Tehran's Ark Mosque, in Tehran's Bazaar from 9-11 am. They will later attend the ceremonies at the holy shrine in the afternoon.

Mourning Ceremonies Held 9 Jun

LD0906155589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Mourning ceremonies sponsored by the heads of the government's three branches for his holiness Imam Khomeyni's departing soul, may God's blessing be on him, the great leader and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], were held this morning at Tehran University, the meeting place of the devout.

According to the Central News Unit correspondent, those present at today's mourning ceremonies included Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the IRI; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis; Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council; Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; members of the Supreme Judicial Council; members of the imam's household; members of the Council for the Reapraisal of the Constitution; members

of the Assembly of Experts; several Majlis deputies; commanders of the three armed services; a group of government and Armed Forces officials; and hundreds of thousands of the lovers and followers of the old man of Jamaran. The ceremonies began with the lamentation for the family of the saints and the beating-of-the-breast ceremonies. Then Dr (?Fazli), a leader of the Palestinian Islamic jihad movement, who is taking part in today's mourning ceremonies as a representative of the Palestinian strugglers, read the message from the Palestinian children to His Holiness Ruhollah, Imam Khomeyni, and to the Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

Addressing the mourning people of Iran, he said: We were the first Muslims to express congratulations to the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and on the victory of the Islamic revolution to the Islamic world from the Al-'Aqsa Mosque. We were hoping to pray at Al-'Aqsa Mosque under the leadership of the passed imam, may God's blessing be on him. O, Imam, if the unity that you wanted and spoke about existed, then the liberation of Jerusalem would have been possible during your lifetime. [passage omitted]

The member of the Islamic jihad movement of Palestine thanked the Assembly of Experts for its wise choice of Mr Khamene'i as leader of the IRI and as a representative of all of the imam's Palestinian children who swore allegiance to his leadership. [passage omitted]

Government Declares 11 Jun National Holiday

LD1006081789 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—The government in a statement Saturday declared Sunday, the seventh day of the passing away of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, a national holiday.

The statement said government officials along with other people will attend the special mourning ceremonies at the imam's shrine at Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery and once again renew allegiance with the ever-lasting aspirations of the late leader.

After the demise of the imam in Tehran last Saturday, five days of public holidays and 40 days of national mourning were declared throughout the country.

Sunday's ceremonies are expected to be attended by millions of the Iranian mourners.

Memorial Services Set for 11 Jun

LD1006125189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Ayatollah Morteza Pasandideh and Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni issued a joint announcement on the demise of His Excellency the imam, may God's blessing be upon him, that memorial services will be held by the family of his excellency the imam beside the immaculate shrine of his excellency and alongside the dear and valuable martyrs of the Islamic revolution tomorrow [11 June] evening. The text of the announcement is as follows:

In the name of God. We announce to the dear Islamic nation that memorial service will be held by his immaculate shrine and by the shrine of the dear and valuable martyrs of the Islamic revolution. These ceremonies are arranged by the family of the imam, may God's blessing be upon him, tomorrow evening.

God willing, the straight path of the imam will be the light for the path of the dear and strong Islamic Republic.

[Signed] Morteza Pasandideh, Ahmad Khomeyni

Mourning Service Detailed

LD1106092389 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—To mark the 7th day of Imam Khomeyni's demise, a commemorative service, sponsered by his relatives, will be held in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery this afternoon. Millions of mourners are expected to attend the ceremony.

By 07:30 GMT, hundreds of thousands of people have gathered there and thronged at the northwestern aisle of the cemetery were Imam Khomeyni's shrine is located. The crowd is so dense at this point that the law enforcement forces are unable to control the frenzied mourners. Loaders and rollers are levelling the ground at the site to prepare the area for easier rallying of the people.

By Islamic tradition, the 7th and 40th days after burial are commemorated by relatives of the deceased person.

Although the ceremonies are scheduled for the afternoon, from the early hours in the morning, the people have been rushing towards Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, 15 kms south of Tehran. As a result, a heavy traffic jam has been caused in southern and central streets of Tehran.

Hundreds of buses and minibuses, covered with black cloths, and carrying portraits of Imam Khomeyni are driving towards the cemetery in small and large groups. In downtown Tehran, people are seen walking towards imam's resting place in small groups.

In another development, personnel of the Air Forces, the police and a group of university students called on Jamaran mosque in north Tehran this morning and vowed to tread the imam's path and to strive to manifest the exalted ideals of the Islamic revolution.

Relatives of martyrs and groups of ordinary people were also present at the mosque were Imam Khomeyni received visitors for over ten years since the culmination of the Islamic revolution. The batch later left Jamaran for Behesht-e Zahra to participate in the commemoration ceremonies.

Over 50 "salawati stations" (refreshment stations) have been set up by various organisations in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, the scene of elaborate preparations since Saturday night to make the site ready for today's ceremonies.

The "salawati station", a term added to the Iranian vocabulary during the Iraqi imposed-war, refers to centers set up by volunteer groups to render welfare services to the Muslim combatants free of charge. Those who received the service only said "salawat" (greetings to the prophet, PBUH) [peace be upon him].

Bank Melli of Iran has stationed mobile branches in Behesht-e Zahra to collect people's donations for building the imam's shrine. Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, the immam's son on Friday opened a special account number to collect donations for the construction of a shrine at Imam Khomeyni's tomb in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

Today, all the roads lead to Behesht-e Zahra where the shrine of the great banner holder of Islam, Imam Khomeyni, is located. Tens of thousands of the imam's lovers are moving toward the cemetery by every possible vehicle including vans, buses, mini-buses and private cars. Some other mourners are marching to Behesht-e Zahra in groups while lamenting by beating their chests and singing in praise of the imam as a tradition.

According to reports, since 9 a.m. local time (05:30 GMT), private cars were trapped in a heavy traffic jam some 13 kms from the cemetery and the drivers had to park on the spot and join the flock of marchers.

The mourners carry big portraits of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Khamene'i, the new leader of the Islamic Republic, huge wreaths of flowers and banners in the frontlines. The banners read "The world is mourning for Khomeyni," "Obedience to Khamene'i is obedience to the imam" and "The world should know that the Hezbollah (God's Party) nation will only tread Khomeyni's path."

The crowd is so dense around the imam's resting place and huge masses are still moving towards the site. Guardsmen of the Islamic Revolution's Committee (IRC), surrounding the shrine, invite the people to maintain calm to make the holding of the ceremony as glorious and orderly as possible.

More than 2,500 Iranian and foreign theologians accompanied by a large number of people from various walks of life forming a several km-long human line, arrived in Behesht-e Zahra from the holy city of Qom this morning. The group had started a march of "allegiance with imam's aspirations" from Qom, 130 kms from here, Friday night.

After the ceremonies, the batch along with university students will march towards Tehran to vow allegiance with Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic.

Mourning groups wearing black shirts and carrying black flags as a sign of grief are moving towards the imam's shrine while beating their chests.

At 10:30 local time (6:55 GMT), the crowd is so dense around the imam's shrine that on average one mourner faints every minute of depression, exhaustion and the heat.

They are immediately carried to Red Crescent mobile clinics situated in 23 locations in the area.

Since last night, one has died of a heart attack and another after falling from the roof of a container.

The Red Crescent Society and the Construction Jihad and Health Ministries have despatched two helicopters, 250 ambulances, and set up a 190-bed mobile hospital along with 1,100 doctors, nurses and health workers.

The imam's shrine located in the middle of a 10,600 sq meter area, is walled by several containers.

A number of vehicles giving services to the people are stationed in the nearby.

At about 11:00 hours local time (07:30 hours GMT), the surrounding area of the shrine was overcrowded and helicopters of the Iranian Army aviation service dropped flowers on the mourners.

Early reports indicate that hundreds of severely grieved mourners, men and women have been transferred to mobile medical units.

A group have been injured due to the density of the crowd and pressures by those who try to reach the imam's shrine by any possible means. Vehicles are moving like turtles along the express way leading to the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

The 15-km long highway to the imam's shrine is filled with public vehicles including city buses and those of the Armed Forces or Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) carrying mourners.

No private car is in sight along the route and such a traffic jam is unprecedented on this axis. Groups of mourners walk along the expressway and desert lands

between the highway and the shrine under the hot sun (about 36 degrees centigrade). Trucks move to and from "salawati stations" carrying foods. Patrol helicopters are also seen flying in the area.

People are waiting in several-kilometer long queues at bus stops in central streets hoping to catch buses destined to Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. But buses are rather rare compared to the ever-increasing number of mourners and people beg to private car drivers in the streets to give them a lift.

Small airplanes sprayed rose water over the crowd at 12:37 local time (9:07 GMT) as a tradition to refresh the mourners. Disciplinary forces have resorted to water spray machines for the huge crowd rallying around the imam's shrine at the cemetery in order to reduce the high temperature.

"O God, weren't we a suitable ummah for our imam who was a descendant of your prophet," shouted the mourning crowd who have enthusiastically embraced the shrine.

Several hours before the official beginning of the seventh day ceremony, the program is unlikely to proceed as scheduled.

Units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Basij forces forming an 8 km-long line entered the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery at 12:45 hours (09:15 GMT) while beating their heads, to attend the ceremony. The units drawn in deep sorrow were chanting slogans in allegiance with the new leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces [title as received] Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

The group had gathered in Shah 'Abdol Azim (PBUH) [peace be upon him] shrine, 15 kms south of Tehran early in the morning to hold a mourning ceremony and from there they marched to the cemetery.

At 15 hours local time (11:30 GMT), the late imam's family arrived at the shrine and were taken to a special stand.

High ranking officials, including members of the Guardians Council, cabinet ministers and some Majlis deputies joined the imam's kin at the stand.

Preparation of the imam's shrine which began on Thursday [8 June] night, was completed today thanks to the untiring efforts of hundreds of the personnel of various organisations and ministries including the IRGC, Construction Jihad and energy with the help of a large number of people.

Several entrance and exit routes and other facilities to the shrine have been considered. A number of halls are made on an area of about 1,000 sq. m [meters] around the shrine by the IRGC in an open shape covered with waterproof cloths. The central courtyard of the shrine is located on an area of about 40 sq. m covered with marble. The gravestone is 1.2 m wide, 2-m long and 1.2 m high, all decorated with marble. Nothing is carved on the marble stones. A 12 m diameter golden dome is put over the shrine. The hexangular shrine is covered with green cloths with a height of 5 meters and a circumference of 45 m. Verses of the holy Koran written in white on a black cloth decorate the upper part of the green cover.

A headquarters under Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni's supervision is delegated with the final decision on constructing the imam's shrine.

Iranian Armenians joined their Muslim compatriots today to commemorate the passing away of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Rings [as received] of churches across Iran tolled solemnly as Armenians gathered together Sunday, eight days after the imam's decease, to hold special ceremonies and pray for him. In Tehran, Archbishop Ardak Manukiyan led a special ceremony at a church today and prayed for the soul of Imam Khomeyni. He also offered deep condolences, on behalf of all Iranian Armenians and on his own behalf, to the Muslim nation of Iran and the Muslim world.

Also present at the ceremony were a number of Muslim 'ulema including the temporary Friday prayer leader of the town of Khomeyn (in Central Province) the birth place of the imam.

At the end of the ceremony, a large group of Armenians departed for Behesht-e Zahra cemetery to visit the shrine of Imam Khomeyni.

Imam Khomeyni passed away June 3, 11 days after undergoing a major surgery and was laid to rest on June 6.

Tehran's squares at 11:10 GMT were filled with mourners who in long lines were trying to find buses and cars to get to the cemetery. Although all the inter-city buses have been put at the service of the ceremony to handle the commuters, there was a great shortage of buses. Many of the mourners who have lost hope in finding means of transportation to the cemetery returned to their homes.

The thickness of the crowd around Imam Khomeyni's shrine had reached three kilometers about 16:00 hours (GMT 12:30). The large crowd has hindered transfer of the fainted people since entrance of ambulances to the area is impossible. The fainted are therefore, transferred arear [to the rear] over the hands of the crowd.

Fire engines pour non-stop spray of water over the crowd in order to reduce the heat.

Eleven spots in the area have been allocated for lost children and properties.

The "Death to the U.S." slogan was echoed was echoed all over Behesht-e Zahra cemetery as helicopters were showering flowers on millions of mourners circling the shrine of the deceased leader, this afternoon. The slogans shouted by the enthusiastic mourners indicated their commitment to the imam's call for the struggle against the arch Satan, the U.S.

At 16:00 hours local time (12:30 GMT) the official ceremony started in the presence of the imam's family and high ranking officials standing at a special stand.

The whole area in the cemetery is filled with the voice of mourners crying and beating their bodies.

The ceremony started with recitation of verses from the Holy Koran.

At 16:10 PM (12:50 GMT) the traffic police announced on the radio that Tehran-Qom-Behesht-e Zahra Express Way is filled with the people making it impossible for automobiles to get to the cemetery. Automobiles are stranded 10 km from the imam's shrine, said the radio announcement.

President Khamene'i arrived at the special stand in the holy shrine to attend the ceremony.

A group of foreign newsmen, photographers and television film crew who are here for the ceremonies are covering the event in the cemetery.

The military personnel while chanting "the Army personnel wish they were dead so they would not see your (the imam's) loss" walked around the holy shrine.

So far, 10,000 of the several million mourners thronging Behesht-e Zahra cemetery have fainted because of heat. Thanks to timely first aid provided by the field medical centers no mishap has taken place. According to the latest reports, on an average one person faints every second in the densely-packed area around Imam Khomeyni's shrine.

Although, the 7th day ceremony has ended, millions of mourners still continue to pour out their grief at the shrine of their beloved leader, who gave meaning to life.

With Majlis Speaker Hoj. 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's emotional speech the ceremony came to an end around 18:00 hours local time, but there is no sign yet that the mourners are ready to leave the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, on whose western edge bordering the Tehran-Qom Highway Imam Khomeyni was laid to rest last Tuesday.

Since the early hours this morning all roads led towards the cemetery, as millions of people started rushing towards the shrine of the great 'seyyed' (descendant of the prophet—PBUH) [peace be upon him] to pledge allegiance to his radiant path until his lofty goals are realized.

It was not Tehran alone that mourned the founder of the Islamic Republic today. Reports coming from each and every town and city even from the far flung corners of the Islamic homeland, speak of millions gathering in mosques and squares to pay tributes to imam.

A rally of thousands of ulema, scholars and students which had started on foot from holy Qom Friday evening, arrived at the site just before the start of the memorial service, braving heat and toil of the 150 km long track.

Grief on the 7th day of demise was not confined to the borders of Iran. Today, Lebanon witnessed the largest ever gathering in its history, as a 600,000 plus Muslims mourned the leader of the Islamic revolution.

The day was also observed in several other countries around the world by the ummah which has lost a great leader.

Imam Khomeyni strode tall and mighty, smashing the modern day idols of capitalism, communism, nationalism and all other absurd isms, and in the process showing the light of Islam to billions of oppressed around the world who were groaning under satanic regimes.

Ruhollah passed away on the night of June 3, but his ruh (spirit) lives, inspiring and guiding millions of faithful who continue to hover around the blessed spot where he was laid to rest. His funeral procession on June 6 was the largest anywhere in the world, and drew over ten million mourners beating their chest and head in such scenes of emotion which words cannot describe.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Eulogy

LD1106161589 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran June 11, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni would always be remembered by his followers worldwide and his shrine would "radiate light", the sobbing Majlis speaker told millions gathered to mark the seventh day of the death of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

"Muslims throughout the world have proven that they will not forget you," he said and broke down in tears. "Your passing away has shakened the world."

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said one needed "a heart of stone" to be able to make a speech at such a gathering on such an occasion.

It was so difficult that the imam had been laid to rest while his devoted followers were alive, he said in a brief address which was originally to be made by the imam's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, who was apparently too depressed to speak.

Millions who came from all parts of the country to once again pay respect to their late leader at his resting place that has instantly been turned into a shrine, with a large golden dome resembling that of the Al-Aqsa' Mosque in Jerusalem. [sentence as received]

A large group of mourners had begun a 135 km march from from Qom towards the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

Highly emotional scenes of mourning similar to those on Tuesday for the imam's funeral were repeated with men and women chanting and beating on their hands and chest in grief. More than 10,000 have lost consciousness but, miraculously, only two have died since Saturday night.

"Soon this site will become a shrine to attract the Muslims of the world. This is the center which radiates heavenly light," Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the mourners in a speech televized live.

"We wish you (the imam) could come to life alive and see what your nation, soldiers, followers and the 'ulema have done for your absence. But I'm sure your great spirit can see all this," he said.

The ceremony was also attended by the late imam's elder brother, Ayatollah Pasandideh, other members of the Khomeyni family, members of the cabinet led by Prime Minister Hoseyin Musavi, Majlis deputies and other senior officials.

After Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech, the ceremony officially ended but crowds have not budged, continuing their mourning rituals which is expected to continue until the early hours of Sunday.

TV Shows Grieving Leaders

LD1106163689 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—Iranian television Sunday showed for the first time film of an emotional gathering of top leaders grieving the death of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Filmed shortly after Imam Khomeyni passed away in hospital the night of June 3, deputy Majlis speaker sitting among other senior officials went into a fit, crying "Father, my father."

"What am I going to tell the martyrs' families," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, who is also the head of the Martyrs Foundation.

Before losing control of himself, Karrubi was sitting next to Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Doa'i [name as received] a Majlis deputy and the imam's representative at ETTELA'AT newspaper, who held his hand to console Karrubi.

The gathering was apparently held at the late imam's residence in Jamaran, north-Tehran, to condole the Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni and the rest of the imam's family.

The scene was being shown for the first time along with other film clips of the last days of the imam in hospital.

Montazeri, Others Hold Commemoration Ceremony

LD1106115489 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—A commemoration ceremony was held by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri on the occasion of Imam Khomeyni's passing away, at A'zam (great) Mosque of Qom Saturday [10 June] night.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Saleh Taheri Khorramabadi, a member of the Experts Assembly, elaborated on several phrases of Imam Khomeyni's will at the ceremony.

Chairman of the Assembly Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, sons of grand Ayatollah Golpayegani and several Majlis deputies, prominent 'ulema from Qom Theological School and spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) were also present at the ceremony.

Mohtashemi, Others Vow Allegiance to Khamene'i

NC1006061689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] The interior minister, deputies, governors general from all over the country, and chiefs of the police and Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran met Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday afternoon and pledged their allegiance to him. According to the Central News Unit, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stressed in his speech that the vacuum created by the loss of the imam is massive, heavy, and serious. He said: In such circumstances, we must rely on God, and with perception, wisdom, and cooperation we must strive to compensate for this loss and vacuum.

Ayatollah Khamene'i addressed the Interior Ministry officials and added: In view of the fact that you have influence in preserving the people's morale, you must endeavor to create greater unity among the various sectors of society, with the utmost innovation, intelligence, and wisdom.

According to this report, Mr Interior Minister Mr Mohtashemi expressed his condolences and the condolences of the officials of the Interior Ministry on the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution to Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He declared the allegiance of all the officials and employees of the Interior

Ministry to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: Under Your Excellency's leadership, we will continue our efforts to attain the fruition of the ideals of the revolution.

Further on Meeting With Khamene'i

LD1006091589 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—President and leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i received Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, his deputies and governors general of the country here Friday evening.

Mohtashemi expressing condolences on the demise of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni who passed away last Saturday, pledged full support for the new leader and stressed that the imam's path should be continued.

The president expressed the hope that with the will of God the vacuum will be filled. He referred to the propaganda of the foreign press that things will collapse after the imam, describing it as a calculated step.

On the massive participation of the Iranians in Imam Khomeyni's funeral, he said this shows the role of the people in the revolution and its magnitude.

He said all must put aside their differences of opinion and personal motives and work towards an all-out cooperation. He added that the people are wholeheartedly safeguarding the Islamic revolution and the world has accepted the revolution as invulnerable. Therefore, those who wished to see the revolution change its course, have now lost their hopes.

Meanwhile, addressing a large number of tribesmen and people from Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan Province who had called on him Friday evening, the president described the massive turnout at the imam's funeral as an unprecedented event in Iranian history. He said the sorrow expressed by the people is indicative of their loyalty to the imam, the revolution and their strong faith in Islam.

Describing the Iranian nation as powerful, he said till the day that the enemies of the revolution are disappointed, the nation must maintain its alertness, consolidate its ranks and keep in mind that the enemies will resort to all possible plots.

Further in his address the president said the country must be reconstructed through unity, adding that the imam's guidelines are always here to assist the people and the government.

The president also received the leader of t
Movement of Iraqi Kurdestan 'Allamah Shayk
'Abd-al-'Aziz and the accompanying deleg
Thursday. The visitors expressed their deep
behalf of the all Iraqi refugees over the demise
imam.

President Khamene'i stressed support of t
Republic of Iran for the Iraqi Muslims K
meeting was attended by Foreign Minister
Velayati.

Musavi Pledges Support to Khamene'i

LD1006172189 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—Prime Minis
Musavi today pledged support from his gover
people to the new leader of the Islamic Rep
tollah 'Ali Khamene'i in order to materializ
goals of the great Imam Khomeyni.

At the first cabinet session following the sad
the leader of the Islamic revolution, Musavi
imam's setting up of a strong system of gov
Iran as one of the most important tasks acco

"Thanks to the institutionalization of decisi
eminence the imam and his founding of the s
system, confusion has been averted after su
tragedy," he said.

Imam Khomeyni passed away Saturday nigh
laid to rest Tuesday amid wailing cries of over
mourners who attended the funeral service.

A day later, the Assembly of Experts un
elected Ayatollah President Khamene'i as ne
the Islamic Republic.

The premier said that one can only guess the
Islamic movement will have on Muslims' des
next decade but that "their wide magn
unknown to us."

Musavi predicted that the planet's one b
Muslims "will not sit idle in future and will
decide their destiny... this will certainly distu
brutal equations."

He termed support for the oppressed, safegu
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A special bank account has been opened for people to donate funds for the construction of the shrine.

Meshkini Expresses Support for Khamene'i

LD1006180189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Following the decision of the Assembly of Experts to choose Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Meshkini, member of the board of directors of the International Center for Islamic Studies, sent a telegram expressing his support for that worthy choice. He stressed: I consider obedience to the commands of the leadership's eminent position as a divine duty. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

16 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast 9 Jun

BK0906153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1513 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Sixteen persons were injured in a bomb explosion in (Kachakhani Bazaar) in Peshawar this afternoon. The injured were taken to Lady Reading Hospital where three were admitted and the rest discharged after being given first aid. It is reported that the injured persons who have been admitted to the hospital are out of danger.

Bhutto Returns After Week-long Visit to U.S

BK1206023489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad last night after a weeklong visit to the United States. Among those present at the airport to receive her were National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid, Punjab Governor General Tikka Khan, Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, federal ministers, ministers of state, advisers, parliament members, chiefs of the Armed Forces, and senior officials.

Although the prime minister returned almost at midnight, a large number of people, especially those carrying party flags, were present at the airport to welcome and congratulate her on her successful visit.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne Says Gandhi To Consult on Troop Pullout

BK0906112289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 9 (AFP)—Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi has called a six-week timetable for withdrawing 40,000 troops from Sri Lanka "difficult" but agreed to hold consultations on the issue, a senior minister said Friday.

Mr. Gandhi "said there are logistical problems involved in moving 40,000 troops. However, he agreed that it could be done through consultations," Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told the Sri Lankan Parliament.

He was replying to a statement by a member of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Anura Bandaranaike.

"We will take you all into confidence and keep you informed, but do not throw spanners in the works," he said in response to Mr. Bandaranaike's request to keep the opposition informed about the withdrawal of the Indian troops.

India has stationed an estimated 45,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east under a July 1987 peace accord between New Delhi and Colombo which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa last week called for the withdrawal of the troops by the end of July, saying that Colombo could not hold a summit of the seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries later this year with "self respect" while a foreign army was present on its soil. SAARC groups India and Sri Lanka with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan and the Maldives.

Mr. Wijeratne did not say how Mr. Gandhi indicated his views on the troop pullout to Colombo, but it is believed he sent a message to Mr. Premadasa through Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratne, who visited New Delhi as the president's special envoy early this week to convey the troop withdrawal request.

Mr. Wijeratne said Mr. Gandhi had never said he would not withdraw the Indian troops from the island. "We trust India. Their troops are here at our request. Through consultations it (withdrawal) can be done," he said. He also praised Mr. Gandhi, describing him as an "honourable man and an honourable politician."

Mr. Bandaranaike welcomed the president's call for the withdrawal and said it was the responsibility of the ruling United National Party, which invited the Indian troops, to send them back. He wanted to know whether the government had considered how to respond if new delhi refused to pull out the troops.

He also asked whether the Sri Lankan Army was prepared to face the insurgency in the north and east in the event of an Indian pullout, particularly given its ongoing operations against Sinhalese rebels in the south. "Does the government have men and arms to meet the situation?" He asked.

Mr. Bandaranaike also asked whether Colombo would seek compensation from New Delhi for damages caused by its troops to the people of the north and east.

Tamil Leader Rejects Call for IPKF Withdrawal
BK1106082289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front chief, Mr Rajan, has criticized President Premadasa for continuing talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. He said in Trincomalee yesterday that Mr Premadasa is playing one Tamil group against the other with the aim of destroying all of them at the end.

Mr Rajan also rejected the idea of withdrawing the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force [from Sri Lanka] and said that Tamils will never accept this (?until) their security is ensured.

TELO Calls Proposed IPKF Pullout 'Unwarranted'
BK1106161489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization—TELO—has said that the devolution of powers to the Northeast Provincial Council with the provision of control on police has to be ensured by India before the withdrawal of the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force [PKF] from Sri Lanka. This will enable the creation of a secured atmosphere for the Tamils and Muslims in the province.

In a statement released in Jaffna today, a spokesman of TELO said the proposal for withdrawal of PKF by the Sri Lankan president is unwarranted at the present juncture.

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